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AUTHOR Leichenko, Stuart; And Others
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ABSTRACT

A nationwide telephone survey of 1000 non-institutionalized disabled Americans aged 16 and over was conducted to examine the impact of disability on the quality of respondents' lives--their work, social life, daily activities, education, and personal life, as well as to identify barriers to their inclusion in the American mainstream. Major findings of the survey include the following: an overwhelming majority of disabled Americans believe that life has improved for disabled people in the last decade; disabled Americans strongly endorse federal government efforts to give better opportunities to disabled people; disabled Americans are much poorer than non-disabled Americans; two-thirds of all disabled Americans surveyed are not working; the majority of those not working must depend on insurance payments or government benefits for support; and twenty-five percent of working-age disabled persons say that they have encountered job discrimination because of their disability. In addition, signs of an emerging group consciousness among disabled persons were also noted. Individual chapters provide detailed analyses of survey results concerned with the nature and severity of disability, perceptions of change, what it means to be disabled, the working and non-working disabled, barriers to entering the mainstream, benefits and who gets them, benefits and public policy, and disabled Americans as an underprivileged group. Appended are a detailed description of the study methodology and the complete questionnaire. (DB)

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THE ICD SURVEY OF DISABLED AMERICANS

BRINGING DISABLED AMERICANS INTO THE MAINSTREAM

A Nationwide Survey
of 1,000 Disabled People

Conducted for

ICD-International Center for the Disabled
New York, New York

in cooperation with the

National Council on the Handicapped
Washington, DC

March 1986

Project Directors:

Humphrey Taylor, President

Michael R. Kagay, Ph.D., Vice President

Stuart Leichenko, Research Associate

LOUIS HARRIS AND ASSOCIATES, INC.
New York, New York

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FOREWORD AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS FROM ICD

ICD-International Center for the Disabled, in cooperation with the National Council on the Handicapped, is proud to have made this survey possible. It is the first major national study of the attitudes and experiences of disabled persons, and the first nationwide survey to ask disabled people about their self-perceptions, how their lives have changed in the past decade, what their experiences have been with employment, education, social life, and what they think must be done to increase their participation in the mainstream of American society. We hope that the results of the survey will inform and guide policymakers and rehabilitation professionals in their efforts to improve the quality of life of disabled Americans.

A study of this magnitude required the commitment, dedication, and expert help of many individuals. We would particularly like to thank Jeremiah Milbank, Jr., who perceived the need for a major survey and provided the impetus to carry it out.

We would also like to thank the National Council on the Handicapped, Mrs. Sandra S. Parrino, Chairperson, and Mr. Lex Frieden, Executive Director, for their invaluable guidance. We are grateful to the J.M. Foundation, the Glenmede Trust Company, the Leon Lowenstein Foundation, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the Hoffmann-La Roche Foundation, the New York Community Trust, the Equitable Group and Health Insurance Company, and other sources for their support of the survey project.

Members of the ICD Survey Committee are John B. Wingate, Executive Director, ICD; Nina M. Hill, Ph.D., Survey Director; Thomas G. Mehnert, Assistant Survey Director; and Sanders W. Davis, M.D., Medical Director, ICD.

Other ICD staff members, too numerous to mention, assisted the Committee in the development of this project.

We gratefully acknowledge the expertise contributed by members of a blue-ribbon Advisory Panel consisting of nationally known and respected leaders from the fields of rehabilitation medicine, consumer advocacy, economics, rehabilitation research, disability policy, and the independent living movement. Their names are listed below. We would particularly like to thank Frank Bowe, Ph.D., Gerben DeJong, Ph.D., and Elizabeth Boggs, Ph.D. for their expert advice and critical review of the questionnaire.

It has been our pleasure to be associated with the distinguished organization of Louis Harris and Associates. As expected, they have produced a valuable, insightful, and much needed look at the lives of disabled Americans.

Survey Advisors

Sam Anderson, Ph.D.
Research Scientist in Psychiatry
Psychiatric Institute
New York, NY

Thomas E. Backer, Ph.D.
Senior Research Scientist
Human Interaction Research Institute
Los Angeles, CA

Elizabeth Boggs, Ph.D.
Governmental Affairs Committee,
Association for Retarded
Citizens of URC/US
Hampton, NJ

Frank Bowe, Ph.D.
Director of Research
Architectural and Transportation
Barriers Compliance Board
Washington, DC

Jack Brauntuch
Executive Director
J.M. Foundation
New York, NY

Robert L. Burgdorf, Jr.
Research Specialist
National Council on the Handicapped
Washington, DC

Theodore M. Cole, M.D.
Professor and Chairman
Department of Physical Medicine
and Rehabilitation
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI

Nancy Crewe, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Physical Medicine
and Rehabilitation
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN

Justin W. Dart, Jr.
National Council on the Handicapped
Washington, DC

Sanders W. Davis, M.D.
Medical Director
ICD-International Center for
the Disabled
New York, NY

Gerben DeJong, Ph.D.
Director of Research
National Rehabilitation Hospital
Washington, DC

Joe S. Dusenbury
National Council on the Handicapped
Washington, DC

Donna Fingerhut
Director, Education and Training
ICD-International Center for
the Disabled
New York, NY

Daniel Finnegan, Ph.D.
President
Quality Planning Company
Oakland, CA

Lex Frieden
Executive Director
National Council on the Handicapped
Washington, DC

Wayne Gordon, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Clinical
Rehabilitation Medicine
Rusk Institute
New York, NY

Nina M. Hill, Ph.D.
Director, Clinical Services and
Professional Education
ICD-International Center for
the Disabled
New York, NY

June Kailes
Executive Director
Westside Center for Independent Living
Los Angeles, CA

Michael Marge, Ed.D.
National Council on the Handicapped
Washington, DC

Jeremiah Milbank, Jr.
National Council on the Handicapped
Washington, DC

Malcolm H. Morrison, Ph.D.
Director
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
Demonstration Programs
U.S. Department of Health and
Human Services
Social Security Administration
Baltimore, MD

Thomas G. Mehnert
Director, Quality Assurance
ICD-International Center for
the Disabled
New York, NY

Sandra S. Parrino
Chairperson
National Council on the Handicapped
Washington, DC

John Raisian
President
Unicon Research Corporation
Los Angeles, CA

Samuel L. Stover, M.D.
Professor and Chairman
Department of Rehabilitation
Medicine
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, AL

Carolyn Vash, Ph.D.
Staff Consultant
Planning Systems International
Falls Church, VA

Roxanne Vierra
National Council on the Handicapped
Washington, DC

Henry Viscardi, Jr., LLD
Member, National Council on the
Handicapped
Washington, DC

John B. Wingate
Executive Director
ICD-International Center for
the Disabled
New York, NY

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INTRODUCTION

What does it mean to be disabled? How do people cope with physical, sensory, or developmental disabilities that may affect every aspect of their lives? What is it like to face many more obstacles than those faced by most other Americans? Many millions of disabled Americans can answer these questions. But the vast majority of non-disabled Americans, including most of our leaders, cannot fully know what it means to be disabled in this country.

The purpose of this survey is to answer these questions by asking a wide range of disabled Americans about the impact of disability on the quality of their lives, their work, social life, daily activities, education, and personal life. The survey also focuses on barriers which prevent disabled people from working, having a full social life, getting around when they need to, or using services; in short, barriers which exclude them in some way from the mainstream of American life, or prevent them from achieving their goals.

This is the first major national survey to study disabled people's attitudes and experiences. The Census Bureau and other government agencies have measured the incidence and prevalence of disability in the general population, and the number of disabled people in and out of the labor force. A basic demographic profile also has emerged from government surveys. But no substantial nationwide survey has sought to learn the impact of disability; what disabled people think about being disabled; and what they think must be done to enable them to participate fully in the life of the nation.

It is hoped that policymakers, leaders of the disability movement, and those who work with disabled people will find the results useful as both a

benchmark of where disabled people stand today, and as a guide in their continuing efforts to improve the quality of life of disabled Americans.

Specifically, the survey provides:

-- The first measure of how disabled people feel that life has changed for them in the past decade.

-- The first measure of the effects of federal laws designed to give better opportunities to disabled persons.

-- Comparisons between disabled and non-disabled people of annual income, and levels of education.

-- The first comparisons of how often disabled and non-disabled people socialize and how involved they are in community life; how often they go to movies, sports events, and cultural events; how often they shop for food and go to restaurants; and how satisfied they are with life.

-- Measures of the overall impact of disability on the quality of life of disabled people, including the impact on their personal lives, and efforts to accomplish goals.

-- Measures of the number of disabled people working; their work experience, including job discrimination; and contrasts in the quality of life and self-perceptions between those who do or do not work.

-- Measures of important barriers which constrain disabled people's social lives, bar them from working, and prevent them from receiving services which could help them to participate more fully in all aspects of life.

-- The first attitudinal measures of common identity among disabled people; the proportion who feel that disabled people are a minority group in the same sense as blacks and Hispanics; and the proportion who feel that anti-discrimination laws should cover them.

Defining Disability

Past studies of disabled Americans have defined disability in a number of different ways. The two most common approaches have been to define disability either as the existence of a limiting health condition which

interferes with a person's normal activities, or as the existence of a condition which prevents or limits an individual's ability to work.

This survey incorporates aspects of both of those approaches, but also includes other criteria:

-- A person was defined as disabled if he or she had a disability or health problem that prevented them from participating fully in work, school, or other activities.

-- A person was defined as disabled if he or she said that he or she had a physical disability, a seeing, hearing, or speech impairment, an emotional or mental disability, or a learning disability.

-- A person was defined as disabled if he or she considered himself or herself disabled, or said that other people would consider him or her disabled.

Using these criteria, the Harris firm screened 12,500 households randomly in the general population, and found the prevalence of disability to be 15% among Americans aged 16 and over. This would place the number of Americans in this age group at about 27 million.

The Sample

The survey is based on 1,000 telephone interviews with a national sample of non-institutionalized disabled persons aged 16 and over. All respondents met at least one of the definitional criteria listed above. Respondents under age 55 were oversampled, in order to insure that enough working-age disabled people were included in the sample. The data were then weighted to bring down the number of working-age disabled people to their proper proportion in the population.

When a disabled person was unavailable for an interview, or unable to be interviewed, a proxy was chosen who knows most about that person. About 17% of the interviews were conducted with proxies.

All interviews were conducted between November 30, 1985 and December 23, 1985, from the Harris firm's central telephone facility in New York City. Interviews averaged 32 minutes in length.

Notes on Reading the Tables

An asterisk (*) on a table signifies a value of less than one-half percent (0.5%). A dash (-) represents a value of zero. Percentages may not always add up to 100% because of computer rounding, multiple answers from respondents, or the elimination of "no answers."

Public Release of the Survey Findings

All Louis Harris and Associates surveys are designed to adhere to the code of standards of the Council of American Survey Reasearch Organizations (CASRO) and the code of the National Council of Public Polls (NCPP). Because data from this survey will be released to the public, any release must stipulate that the complete report will also be available, rather than simply an excerpt from the survey findings.

Project Responsibility

The director of this project at Louis Harris and Associates was Humphrey Taylor, President. The chief analyst was Stuart Leichenko, Research Associate. He worked under the supervision of Michael R. Kagay, Ph.D., Vice President and Division Head.

Louis Harris and Associates would like to thank ICD-International Center for the Disabled and the J.M. Foundation for sponsoring this research. We would in particular like to thank Jeremiah Milbank Jr. and Jack Brauntuch of the J.M. Foundation, and John Wingate, Dr. Nina Hill, Dr. Sanders Davis, and Tom Mehnert of ICD-International Center for the Disabled, and Sandra Parrino and Lex Frieden of the National Council on the Handicapped. We are also greatly in debt to the many other people who contributed to the development of the questionnaire. However, responsibility for topics, question wordings, the findings, and for their interpretation rests solely with Louis Harris and Associates.

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

This summary provides an overview of the results of this survey. Many findings described in the body of the report do not appear in this summary. Readers are urged to examine the body of the report to understand the full findings of this survey.

Changes in the Past Ten Years

1. An overwhelming majority of disabled Americans believe that life has improved for disabled people in the past decade. Seven out of ten disabled persons feel that things have gotten somewhat better (47%) or much better (25%) for disabled persons in the past ten years. Even among very severely disabled persons, a solid majority (58%) feel that life has improved for disabled persons.

This finding, as well as the following one, shows that nationwide efforts on behalf of disabled people have made an important difference in the lives of disabled Americans.

2. Disabled Americans strongly endorse federal government efforts to give better opportunities to disabled people. A two-thirds majority of disabled Americans think that federal laws passed since the late 1960's to give better opportunities to disabled Americans have helped a great deal or somewhat.

What It Means to Be Disabled

1. Disabled Americans have far less education, as a group, than do non-disabled Americans. Forty percent of all disabled persons did not finish high school. This proportion is nearly three times higher than in the non-disabled population, where only 15% of adults have less than a high school education. However, nearly two-thirds of disabled persons with less than a high school education did not become disabled until at least middle age, long after they finished school.

2. Disabled Americans are much poorer than are non-disabled Americans. Half of all disabled persons (50%) report household incomes for 1984 of $15,000 or less. Among non-disabled Americans, only 25% have household incomes in this bracket.

3. There is a disturbing rate of poverty among elderly disabled persons. One-third (32%) of all disabled persons aged 65 and over report a household income of $7,500 a year or less. Six out of ten elderly disabled persons report a household income of $15,000 or less.

4. Being disabled means having less social life than non-disabled people and, for a majority of disabled persons, not being able to get around and socialize as much as they would like:

— An 85% majority of non-disabled people socialize at least once a week with family and friends. Seventy-five percent of all disabled persons say that they socialize at least once a week, but this figure drops to 67% among very severely disabled persons.

— A 56% majority of all disabled persons say that their disability prevents them from getting around, socializing outside of their home, or attending cultural or sports events as much as they would like. This majority rises to 67% among somewhat severely disabled persons, and to 79% among very severely disabled persons.

5. Disabled Americans participate much less often in a host of social activities that other Americans regularly enjoy, including watching movies, plays, and sports events, and going to restaurants:

-- Nearly two-thirds of all disabled Americans never went to a movie in the past year. In the full adult population, only 22% said that they had not gone to a movie in the past year.

-- Three-fourths of all disabled persons did not see live theater or a live music performance in the past year. Among all adults, about 4 out of 10 had not done so.

-- Two-thirds of all disabled persons never went to a sports event in the past year, compared to 50% of all adults.

-- Disabled people are three times more likely than are non-disabled people to never eat in restaurants. Seventeen percent of disabled people never eat in restaurants, compared to 5% of non-disabled people. Only 34% of disabled people eat at a restaurant once a week or more, compared to a 58% majority of non-disabled people.

6. Disability also has a negative impact on vital daily activities, like shopping for food. A much higher proportion of disabled persons than non-disabled persons never shop in a grocery store. Thirteen percent of disabled persons never shop in a grocery store, compared to only 2% of non-disabled persons. About 6 out of 10 disabled persons visit a grocery store at least once a week, while 90% of non-disabled adults shop for food this often.

7. Disabled Americans are also less involved in community life than are non-disabled Americans. Six out of ten non-disabled persons say that they are somewhat or very active in volunteer groups, religious groups, recreation groups, or other community activities. Only 4 out of 10 disabled persons are active in these kinds of groups.

8. Disabled Americans express less satisfaction with life than the non-disabled majority does. But a large majority of disabled persons say that they are satisfied with life. Sixty-nine percent of disabled persons say that they are somewhat or very satisfied with life, compared to 90% of non-disabled persons.

9. The most significant overall measure of the impact of disability is that a 57% majority of disabled Americans feel that their disability has prevented them from reaching their full abilities as a person.

A much higher percentage of very severely disabled persons believe that their disability has impeded their efforts to reach their potential. Seventy-two percent of very severely disabled persons believe that this is so.

Working or Not Working: The Great Divide

1. Not working is perhaps the truest definition of what it means to be disabled: two-thirds of all disabled Americans between the age of 16 and 64 are not working. Only 1 in 4 work full-time, and another 10% work part-time. No other demographic group under 65 has such a small proportion working, including young blacks.

2. But a large majority of those not working say that they want to work. Sixty-six percent of working-age disabled persons, who are not working, say that they would like to have a job.

This finding is one of the most important and challenging in the survey. The challenge is how society can effect policies and programs which will bring more disabled persons into the working mainstream: at present, 96% of those not working are not even in the labor force. This means that they

had not sought work actively in the past month, which is another revealing measure of their isolation from the mainstream.

3. Key comparisons between working and non-working disabled persons, aged 16 to 64, show that work makes a vast qualitative difference in the lives of disabled persons. Those who work are better educated, and have much more money. They are also more satisfied with life, much less likely to consider themselves disabled, and much less likely to say that their disability has prevented them from reaching their full abilities as a person.

-- About four times as many working disabled persons have a four-year college education, as do those who do not work. And also most twice as many non-working disabled persons (43%) as working disabled persons (22%) did not finish school.

-- Over twice as many working disabled persons report a 1984 household income of $25,000 or more (44%) as do those who don't work (21%).

-- Eighty percent of those who work are at least somewhat satisfied with life, compared to 62% of those who don't work.

-- Only one-quarter (26%) of those who work consider themselves a disabled person. Among those who don't work, a 59% majority consider themselves disabled.

-- Less than half (47%) of those who work say that their disability has prevented them from reaching their full abilities as a person. Six out of 10 (60%) non-working disabled persons believe that their disability has had this effect.

4. The majority of those not working, and out of the labor force, must depend on insurance payments or government benefits for support. About 6 out of 10 of those out of the labor force (36% of all disabled people under 65) receive some sort of income support from either insurance payments or government benefit programs. And the majority of those who receive benefits say that they are the main wage earner in their household.

The rest of those out of the labor force (40%) say that they do not receive benefits from either an insurance company or from government programs. The great majority of those not receiving benefits, most of whom are women, say that someone else is the main wage earner in their household.

5. The survey findings suggest that, in general, benefits are going to the right people. The group receiving benefits tend strongly to have less education and less money, and to be more severely disabled than other disabled people. The majority of them must support also themselves.

Barriers to a Full Social Life

1. Disabled people who say that their disability constrains their activities and social lives identified several important barriers which contribute to their problems. These include: fear that their disability will cause them to get sick, hurt, or victimized by crime; the need for help from other people in getting around; lack of access to public transportation or someone to drive them places; and lack of access to public buildings and bathrooms.

-- Fifty-nine percent of this group say that an important reason why their disability limits their social life is fear that they will get hurt, sick, or victimized by crime.

-- A 56% majority of those whose activities are limited say that not always having someone to help them limits what they are able to do.

-- Half (49%) of this group say that an inability to use public transportation, a lack of special transportation, or not having someone to drive them, are important reasons why their social activities are limited.

Barriers to Working

1. The findings also reveal several significant barriers to work which could be addressed by policymakers and employers. There appears to be much room for change which will help to employ more disabled persons now, and many more disabled persons in the future.

-- Forty-seven percent of working-age disabled persons who are not working, or working part-time, say that employers won't recognize that they are capable of doing a full-time job.

-- Forty percent of this group say that a lack of available jobs in their line of work, or their inability to find jobs, is an important reason why they are not working full-time.

-- Thirty-eight percent of these disabled persons say that undereducation and a lack of marketable skills are important reasons why they are not working full-time.

-- About 3 out of 10 (28%) say that a lack of accessible or affordable transportation is an important barrier to work for them.

-- And 2 out of 10 (23%) of those not working, or working part-time, say that they don't have needed equipment or devices to help them work easier or communicate with other workers.

2. One out of four (25%) working-age disabled persons say that they have encountered job discrimination because of their disability.

3. But 1 in 3 (35%) disabled persons who work now, or who have worked full-time while disabled, say that their employer made some sort of accommodation for their disability.

This finding suggests that some disabled persons now working are able to work because their employer took some step which allowed them to continue working. The implications for employing more disabled persons are clear: a greater willingness by employers to make accommodations will allow many more disabled persons to continue working after becoming disabled, or to enter the workforce for the first time.

Barriers to Services for Disabled Persons

1. Most disabled persons are not familiar with some of the most widely available services for disabled people, and a 53% majority of disabled persons feel that it is difficult to find out about these services.

Less than a majority of disabled persons are familiar with medical and rehabilitation services for disabled people (44%), Section 8 or other housing for disabled persons (31%), and independent living centers (25%).

Majorities of disabled persons are familiar with vocational rehabilitation (60%) and transportation services for disabled persons (58%).

These findings leave no doubt that much could be done to better inform disabled persons about the most important services available to them.

Benefits, Public Policy, and Employing More Disabled Persons

1. Most disabled persons strongly support efforts by government and employers to bring more disabled persons into the working mainstream of society, while also providing for those who are genuinely unable to work.

— More than 9 out of 10 disabled persons think that government and the private sector should increase efforts to educate, train, and rehabilitate disabled persons.

-- Over 9 in 10 disabled persons also say that there should be more special equipment in offices and factories so that disabled persons can work better and communicate easily with other workers.

-- More surprisingly, 78% of disabled persons support less government spending for disabled persons who are able to work but don't.

-- However, an 89% majority of disabled persons also approve at least somewhat of more government spending for disabled people who are unable to work. The key in this finding, and the previous one, seems to be the perceived ability to work.

— But there is clear ambivalance about placing pressure on disabled people to work, regardless of their health. A 54% majority of disabled persons approve at least somewhat of society taking better care of all disabled persons, "so that they are not forced to go out and work." But an almost equal number disapprove of society taking this direction in its policies toward disabled persons.

2. The previous findings clearly contain some contradictions, depending on the wording and emphasis of the questions. But a detailed analysis of the findings shows that a 53% majority of disabled persons consistently favor society taking steps which will encourage more disabled persons to be self-sufficient. About one-quarter (25%) believe, on balauce, that disabled persons should be protected by society. The remaining 22% have mixed views on what direction public policy toward disabled persons should take.

Disabled Persons as an Underprivileged Group: An Emerging Group Identity

1. There are clear signs of an emerging group consciousness among disabled persons.

Many of the findings indicate that most disabled persons view their disability as their own problem. But the results of three questions never before asked of disabled people suggest that disabled people's common experiences and problems affect how they relate to, and perceive, other disabled persons.

-- A 74% majority of all disabled Americans say that they feel at least some sense of common identify with other disabled people. Four out of ten disabled persons say that they feel a somewhat or very strong sense of common identify.

-- A 45% plurality of all disabled Americans feel that disabled persons are a minority group in the same sense as are blacks and Hispanics. Forty-two percent feel that disabled persons are not a minority group in this sense.

-- A near consensus of disabled persons (74%) believe that anti-discrimination laws that protect minorities should also protect disabled persons.

CHAPTER 1: THE NATURE AND SEVERITY OF DISABILITY

One of the objectives of this survey was to provide a profile of a representative sample of disabled Americans, which included persons with a wide range of disabilities, levels of functional impairment, and self-perceptions about themselves and how others view them. The purpose of this was to look for contrasts and similarities in the experiences and attitudes of those with differing levels of impairment or self-perception. The survey therefore included a number of questions which measured types of disability, the extent to which a disability limited the respondent, the onset of disability, self-reported severity of disability, and whether or not a respondent considered himself or herself disabled.

Measures of Disability

Table 1 shows a profile of the full sample of 1,000 disabled persons aged 16 and over by these key measures of disability.

Forty-four percent of the sample said that a physical disability was either their only disability or their most limiting disability. (Physical disabilities were defined as nonparalytic orthopedic impairments, neuromotor or neuromuscular disorders, brain disfunction or memory loss, disfigurement, and deformity.) Thirteen percent said that their only condition or most limiting condition was a visual impairment, hearing impairment, or speech impairment. Six percent have mental disabilities. Thirty-two percent had other serious health impairments as their only disability or most limiting

disability. (These included heart disease, respiratory disease, cancer, diabetes, and other major diseases.)

Thirteen percent of disabled persons said that the onset of limitation (when the disability began to limit their activities) was from birth to adolescence, 21% were disabled as young adults, 22% were disabled in middle age, and 37% were disabled after age 55.

Limitation of activities shows the extent to which a disability limits a person's activities. Forty-six percent of the sample said that they are prevented completely from working, going to school, or keeping house. Thirty-eight percent said that they are limited in the amount or kind of work which they can do. Eight percent said that they are limited in other activities, but not in work. And 8% said that their disability does not limit them at all.

Fourteen percent described their disability as slight, 31% described it as moderate, 28% described it as somewhat severe, and 24% described it as very severe.

Table 1

A PROFILE OF THE SAMPLE OF 1,000 DISABLED AMERICANS BY KEY MEASURES OF DISABILITY

Base	1,000 %
Self-Reported Condition*	
Physical Disability	44
Nonparalytic orthopedic impairments	29
Brain disfunction/memory loss/senility	6
Other physical disabilities	2
Sensory Impairment	13
Blind/visual impairment	7
Hearing, speech, language	6
Mental Disability	6
Mental retardation/D.D.	3
Mental illness	3
Other Serious Health Impairments	32
Heart disease/blood or blood vessel disease	16
Respiratory or pulmonary disease	5
Cancer/diabetes/kidney disease/other disease	11
Not Sure/Refused	4
Multiply Disabled	32
Not Multiply Disabled	68
Onset of Disability	
Birth to adolescence	20
Young adult	25
Middle age	23
After age 55	31
Onset of Limitation	
Birth to adolescence	13
Young adult	21
Middle age	22
After age 55	37
Limitation of Activities	
Cannot work, keep house, etc.	46
Limited in amount or kind of work	38
Other activities limited	8
Not limited at all	7
Severity of Disability	
Slight	14
Moderate	31
Somewhat severe	28
Very severe	24

*Most limiting condition or single condition

Self-Perceptions

Disabled Americans are evenly divided between those who do and those who do not consider themselves disabled persons. Forty-nine percent of disabled persons said that they do consider themselves disabled, and 50% said that they do not (Table 2). However, there are dramatic differences in self-perception between slight or moderately disabled persons and those who are severely disabled. Only 19% of slightly disabled persons and 32% of moderately disabled persons consider themselves disabled. Large majorities of those who are somewhat severely disabled (58%) or very severely disabled (77%) consider themselves disabled persons.

The same sharp contrast in self-perception distinguishes those who are most severely limited in their activities from those who are less severely limited. Sixty-eight percent of those prevented completely from working consider themselves disabled, while only 20% of those limited in activities besides work consider themselves disabled.

When in life a person becomes disabled also appears to influence self-perceptions of disabled persons. Only 42% of those disabled from birth to adolescence consider themselves disabled, compared to majorities of 58% and 54%, respectively, among those disabled in middle age or after age 55.

Observation:

1. It is important to make clear that both those who do and do not consider themselves disabled met at least one of the objective definitions of disability used to find respondents for the survey. This subjective measure of disability thus shows that half of all Americans who fit these broad objective definitions of disability do not see themselves as disabled.

2. The objectively disabled people most likely to consider themselves disabled are those over 45 years, those disabled later in life, those most limited in their activities, and those who describe their disability as severe. But 22% of very seriously disabled people do not consider themselves disabled, which is further evidence that many factors influence self-perceptions.

Q.10(1)

Table 2

PROPORTION WHO CONSIDER THEMSELVES DISABLED

Q.: Do you consider yourself a disabled or handicapped person, or not?

	Base		Yes, Considers Self Disabled	No, Does Not Consider Self Disabled	Not Sure/ Refused
Total	1,000	%	49	50	1
Age					
16-34 years	190	%	34	65	1
35-44 years	136	%	41	59	-
45-54 years	145	%	55	45	-
55-64 years	232	%	56	43	*
65 and over	296	%	52	45	3
Onset of Limitation					
Birth-adolescence	139	%	42	56	2
Young adult	226	%	49	51	-
Middle age	216	%	58	41	1
After age 55	336	%	54	43	2
Limitation of Activities					
Cannot work, keep house, etc.	455	%	68	31	-
Limited in amount or kind of work	381	%	41	58	2
Other activities limited	86	%	20	79	1
Not limited at all	77	%	6	94	1
Severity of Disability					
Slight	144	%	19	81	-
Moderate	310	%	32	66	2
Somewhat severe	284	%	58	40	1
Very severe	237	%	77	22	1

*Less than 0.5%.

How Disabled Persons Think Others View Them

As Table 3 shows, a significant pattern of perception emerges when disabled persons were twice asked if other people considered them disabled -- when people meet them for the first time, and after people get to know them fairly well. About one-third (32%) of disabled persons say that other people consider them disabled when they first meet. But a 47% plurality say that other people consider them disabled after they get to know them fairly well.

Those most limited in activities or very severely disabled (the same group, to a large degree) are much more likely to say that others consider them disabled. A 52% majority of very severely disabled persons say that others consider them disabled when they first meet. Seventy percent of this same group say that others consider them disabled after they get to know them fairly well.

Those disabled persons who consider themselves disabled also are more likely to say that others see them as disabled, than are those who do not consider themselves disabled. Forty-five percent of those who consider themselves disabled say that others do, too, compared to only 19% of those who do not consider themselves disabled.

Observation:

The increase in affirmative answers from the first to the second question suggests two things: first, that the effects of disability often are revealed over a period of time, not upon first meeting with a disabled person; and second, that how disabled people view themselves may come to influence how they think other people view him. Of course, the opposite may also be true -- that how other people view disabled people influences how they view themselves.

Q.10(2,3)

Table 3

PROPORTION WHO SAY THAT OTHER PEOPLE CONSIDER THEM DISABLED

Q.: Do you think most other people would consider you a disabled or handicapped person when they first meet you, or not?

Q.: Do you think most people who get to know you fairly well consider you a disabled or handicapped person, or not?

	Base		Yes, Considered Disabled When People First Meet Them	Yes, Considered Disabled After People Get to Know Them Well
Total	1,000	%	32	47
Onset of Limitation				
Birth-adolescence	139	%	48	45
Young adult	226	%	26	43
Middle age	216	%	29	55
After age 55	336	%	36	51
Limitation of Activities				
Cannot work, keeps house, etc.	455	%	45	63
Limited in amount or kind of work	381	%	24	39
Other activities limited	86	%	19	23
Not limited at all	77	%	10	9
Severity of Disability				
Slight	144	%	13	17
Moderate	310	%	25	32
Somewhat severe	284	%	30	56
Very severe	237	%	52	70
Self-Reported Condition*				
Physical disability	555	%	40	54
Visual or communications impairment	178	%	37	39
Mental illness/M.R./D.D.	82	%	35	55
Other health impairments	497	%	28	47
Self Perception				
Considers self disabled	484	%	45	72
Does not consider self disabled	504	%	19	21

*Single condition or condition identified as most limiting.

CHAPTER 2: PERCEPTIONS OF CHANGE

The survey examined how disabled Americans believe life has changed for them in the past decade, and what role they believe the federal government has played in creating changes for disabled persons.

Change in the Past Ten Years

An overwhelming majority of disabled Americans believe that life has improved for disabled persons in the past decade. Seven out of ten disabled persons say that things have gotten somewhat better (47%) or much better (25%) for disabled people during the past 10 years (Table 4).

The most severely disabled persons are somewhat less likely to feel that things have improved than are slightly or moderately disabled people. About six out of ten (58%) of very severely disabled persons feel that things have gotten better in the past decade. A much larger 80% majority of moderately disabled people and an 83% majority slightly disabled people feel that things have improved.

Observation:

The fact that a substantial majority of even severely disabled people feel that life has improved for disabled persons underscores the significance of this finding.

Policymakers and organizations working with disabled persons should be greatly encouraged by this finding. It shows that it is possible to make substantial improvements in the quality of life experienced by disabled people, and that nationwide efforts in recent years have already made a difference. And it offers hope that much more can be done in the future.

Q.13

Table 4

PERCEPTIONS OF HOW THINGS HAVE CHANGED FOR DISABLED PEOPLE IN THE PAST DECADE

Q.: How do you think things have changed in general for disabled Americans in the past 10 years -- have they gotten much better, somewhat better, somewhat worse, much worse, or haven't they changed at all in the past 10 years?

	Base		Much Better	Somewhat Better	Somewhat Worse	Much Worse	No Change at All	It Depends (Vol.)	Not Sure/ Refused
Total	1,000	%	25	47	6	6	9	1	6
Age									
16-34 years	190	%	26	55	4	2	9	1	3
35-44 years	136	%	21	56	7	5	7	1	3
45-54 years	145	%	25	46	8	8	9	1	4
55-64 years	232	%	25	47	6	5	11	1	5
65 and over	296	%	27	39	4	7	8	2	10
Onset of Limitation									
Birth-adolescence	139	%	28	57	6	-	8	-	2
Young adult	226	%	24	50	5	6	11	2	2
Middle age	216	%	23	45	7	9	11	-	6
After age 55	336	%	27	43	7	6	7	2	9
Limitation of Activities									
Cannot work, keep house, etc.	455	%	22	45	6	8	10	1	7
Limited in amount or kind of work	381	%	29	49	7	3	8	1	4
Other activities limited	86	%	28	48	6	2	9	1	5
Not limited at all	77	%	26	48	2	5	11	-	7
Severity of Disability									
Slight	144	%	33	50	4	2	8	1	3
Moderate	310	%	30	50	6	3	5	1	6
Somewhat severe	284	%	22	50	6	5	11	1	5
Very severe	237	%	19	39	9	12	12	1	8
Self-Perception									
Considers self disabled	484	%	21	46	8	8	10	1	5
Does not consider self disabled	504	%	29	48	5	3	8	1	6

The Role of the Federal Government

The survey findings also reveal a powerful endorsement of the role played by the federal government in giving better opportunities to disabled persons. A two-thirds majority (67%) of disabled Americans think that federal laws passed since the late 1960's to give better opportunities to disabled Americans have helped a great deal or helped somewhat (Table 5). This level of support differs little by age, onset of limitation, extent of limitation, or severity of disability. There is strong support for the role played by federal government among most disabled Americans.

Observation:

The strength of this endorsement for a federal program is unsurpassed since the Harris firm began measuring public support for federal programs and laws. It is an encouraging and important confirmation that the federal government has helped, and could continue to help, disabled Americans. And it comes at a time when many people are attacking the federal government and its programs as wasteful, unresponsive, and ineffective. The federal government has made a real difference for disabled Americans.

Familiarity with Section 504

Nearly one-third (31%) of disabled Americans say that they are familiar with Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Table 6).

Observation:

Thirty-one percent is a fairly high level of public familiarity with a specific law. But it is one of several findings in this survey which show that society, and those who work with disabled people, have yet to inform the great majority of disabled persons about particular laws and services designed to assist them in participating fully in society.

Q.14c

Table 5

PERCEPTIONS OF HOW FEDERAL LAWS HAVE HELPED DISABLED PEOPLE

Q.: Since the late 1960's, the federal government has passed laws to give better opportunities to disabled and handicapped Americans. How much do you think these laws have helped disabled Americans -- have they helped a great deal, somewhat, not too much, or hardly helped at all?

	Base		Helped a Great Deal	Somewhat	Not Too Much	Hardly Helped at All	Not Sure/ Refused
Total	1,000	%	22	46	14	10	8
Age							
16-34 years	190	%	15	48	19	12	5
35-44 years	136	%	14	52	13	17	4
45-54 years	145	%	17	45	19	9	11
55-64 years	232	%	24	47	15	6	7
65 and over	296	%	29	42	9	9	11
Onset of Limitation							
Birth-adolescence	139	%	21	48	19	6	7
Young adult	226	%	14	46	14	19	7
Middle age	216	%	19	46	18	8	8
After age 55	336	%	29	43	11	8	9
Limitation of Activities							
Cannot work, keep house, etc.	455	%	23	42	14	12	8
Limited in amount or kind of work	381	%	22	48	14	9	7
Other activities limited	86	%	20	49	15	6	10
Not limited at all	77	%	17	58	14	4	7
Severity of Disability							
Slight	144	%	25	49	14	6	7
Moderate	310	%	21	51	12	8	8
Somewhat severe	284	%	21	47	15	10	8
Very severe	237	%	22	39	16	14	8
Self-Perception							
Considers self disabled	484	%	22	44	13	13	8
Does not consider self disabled	504	%	22	48	15	7	8

Q.15a

Table 6

FAMILIARITY WITH SECTION 504

Q.: In 1973, the federal government passed the Rehabilitation Act. One section of that act, Section 504, prohibits any program, business or activity that gets federal money from discriminating against people who have handicaps. Before this interview, how familiar would you say you were with this law -- very familiar, somewhat familiar, not too familiar, or not familiar at all?

	Base		Very Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Not Too Familiar	Not Familiar at All	Not Sure/ Refused
Total	1,000	%	8	23	29	39	1
Age							
16-34 years	190	%	10	25	27	38	-
35-44 years	136	%	13	30	20	38	-
45-54 years	145	%	6	23	27	44	-
55-64 years	232	%	8	24	31	36	*
65 and over	296	%	6	20	34	39	2
Education							
Less than high school graduate	393	%	6	19	36	38	2
High school graduate	317	%	9	22	28	41	-
Some college	150	%	8	31	26	34	1
Four-year college or more	135	%	12	32	17	39	-
Onset of Limitation							
Birth-adolescence	139	%	10	33	29	28	-
Young adult	226	%	14	24	20	43	2
Middle age	216	%	5	21	31	41	2
After age 55	336	%	6	22	32	39	1
Limitation of Activities							
Cannot work, keep house, etc.	455	%	8	20	31	41	1
Limited in amount or kind of work	381	%	9	27	26	37	1
Other activities limited	86	%	8	26	30	35	1
Not limited at all	77	%	4	21	36	39	-
Severity of Disability							
Slight	144	%	7	30	25	39	-
Moderate	310	%	9	22	32	36	2
Somewhat severe	284	%	7	25	30	38	-
Very severe	237	%	9	20	29	42	*

*Less than 0.5%.

CHAPTER 3: WHAT IT MEANS TO BE DISABLED: FUNDAMENTAL MEASURES

This is the first of three chapters which give some sense of what it means to be disabled, and some understanding of how many disabled people are excluded from the mainstream of American life.

Education and Income

Disabled Americans have far less education and money, as a group, than do non-disabled Americans (Table 7).

-- Forty percent of all disabled persons aged 16 and over did not finish high school. This proportion is nearly three times higher than in the non-disabled population, where only 15% of adults aged 18 and over have less than a high school education (Table 7). However, nearly two-thirds of disabled persons with less than a high school education did not become disabled until at least middle age, long after they finished school.

-- The difference in the proportions of disabled and non-disabled persons who have gone on to college are also dramatic. Only 29% of disabled persons say that they have at least some college education, compared to 48% of non-disabled persons -- and many disabled persons were educated before the onset of their disability.

-- Disabled Americans are much poorer than are non-disabled Americans. Half of all disabled persons (50%) aged 16 and over have a household income for 1984 of $15,000 or less. Among non-disabled Americans, only 25% have household incomes in this bracket. The same contrast is evident when comparing the proportion of each group whose household income is at least $35,000. Only 12% of disabled persons fall into this bracket, compared to 27% of non-disabled persons.

-- These differences are due in part to the disturbing rate of poverty among older disabled persons. Fully one in three (32%) of disabled persons aged 65 and over report a household income of $7,500 or less. Six out of ten elderly disabled persons report a household income of $15,000 or less.

-- Poverty is greatest among the most severely disabled persons. As Table 8 shows, the more severely disabled persons are even poorer as a group than are slight or moderately disabled persons, or those less limited in their activities.

-- Disabled persons who have less than a high school education (40%) are older, poorer, and more severely impaired, as a group, than are disabled persons in general. For example, nearly two-thirds (64%) of disabled people with less than a high school education have household incomes of $15,000 or less, compared to 50% of all disabled persons (Table 9). And a 57% majority of the least educated disabled people say that their disability prevents them completely from working, compared to 47% of all disabled persons. Those with the least education clearly suffer from the most disadvantaged status.

Observation:

While life may have improved for disabled people, being disabled still means having much less education and money and -- as the other survey findings will show -- less of almost everything in life than most other Americans.

Table 7

A COMPARISON BETWEEN DISABLED AND NON-DISABLED PERSONS ON KEY DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES

	Disabled Persons	Non-Disabled Persons*
Sex		
Male	44	46
Female	56	54
Region		
East	23	24
Midwest	25	25
South	32	31
West	20	20
Area		
Central City	31	31
Other Urban Areas	42	46
Outside Metropolitan Areas	27	23
Age		
16-24 years	7	NA
25-34 years	9	NA
35-44 years	12	NA
45-54 years	13	NA
55-64 years	25	NA
65-74 years	20	NA
75 and over	13	NA
Education		
Less than high school	40	15
High school graduate	31	37
Some college	15	25
4-year college graduate or more	14	23
Household Income		
$7,500 or less	25	12
$7,501 to $15,000	25	17
$15,001 to $25,000	16	21
$25,001 to $35,000	12	16
$35,001 to $50,000	7	15
$50,001 or more	5	12
Race		
White	80	81
Black	10	11
Hispanic	6	6
Marital Status		
Married/living together	56	58**
Single	13	22
Divorced/widowed/separated	31	20

*Based on a 1985 national sample of 1,064 adults aged 18 and over who say that they don't have a limiting disability or health problem.

**1984 national figures for entire adult population. "Living together" was not offered as a response for this question.

Q.F3

Table 8

HOUSEHOLD INCOME BY KEY MEASURES OF DISABILITY

Q.: Which of the following income categories best describes the total 1984 income of all wage earners in your household, including income from benefits and insurance payments? Was it (READ LIST)?

	Base		$7,500 or Less	$7,501-$15,000	$15,001-$25,000	$25,001-$35,000	$35,001-$50,000	$50,001 or More	Not Sure/ Refused
Total	1,000	%	25	25	16	12	7	5	10
Age									
16-34 years	190	%	15	19	22	19	10	8	7
35-44 years	136	%	18	22	21	12	14	8	4
45-54 years	145	%	26	20	14	17	10	7	5
55-64 years	232	%	28	28	17	9	6	4	7
65 and over	296	%	32	29	12	8	3	1	16
Onset of Limitation									
Birth-adolescence	139	%	22	13	21	18	9	10	7
Young adult	226	%	22	23	16	13	10	7	9
Middle age	216	%	28	24	17	10	8	3	10
After age 55	336	%	28	32	13	9	3	2	13
Limitation of Activities									
Cannot work, keep house, etc.	455	%	35	27	13	8	6	1	10
Limited in amount or kind of work	381	%	19	24	19	14	8	5	11
Other activities limited	86	%	12	21	19	14	9	16	8
Not limited at all	77	%	18	20	18	18	13	9	5
Severity of Disability									
Slight	144	%	15	19	24	14	10	11	7
Moderate	310	%	21	25	14	14	9	4	12
Somewhat severe	284	%	26	26	19	12	8	4	6
Very severe	237	%	35	28	11	8	3	2	13

Table 9

A PROFILE OF DISABLED PERSONS WITH LESS THAN A HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION

Base	All Disabled Persons 1000 %	Disabled Persons With Less Than a High School Education 393 %
Sex		
Male	44	45
Female	56	55
Age		
16-24 years	7	11
25-34 years	9	6
35-44 years	12	7
45-54 years	13	12
55-64 years	25	26
65-74 years	20	22
75 and over	13	17
Income		
$7,500 or less	25	36
$7,501 to $15,000	25	28
$15,001 to $25,000	16	11
$25,001 to $35,000	12	7
$35,001 to $50,000	7	3
$50,001 or more	5	2
Onset of Limitation		
Birth-adolescence	13	15
Young adult	21	13
Middle age	22	21
After age 55	37	43
Limitation of Activities		
Cannot work, keep house, etc.	46	57
Limited in amount or kind of work	38	28
Other activities limited	8	8
Not limited at all	7	6
Severity of Disability		
Slight	14	10
Moderate	31	29
Somewhat severe	28	27
Very severe	24	30

Individual Problems Faced by Disabled Americans

On an individual level, the survey found that being disabled means something different for almost every disabled person. Because the range and effects of disabilities are so broad, the types of problems faced by disabled people vary greatly (Table 10). For some, the greatest problems faced are physical: trouble walking, or climbing stairs. For other disabled persons, the psychological effects of disability trouble them most: how they come to see themselves or how they believe other people perceive them. For still others, not being able to steer a car or see well enough to drive may be what troubles them most. Certainly, as the findings will later show, the inability to work or to find a job is a problem faced by the great majority of disabled persons. But the unifying thread in the problems faced by disabled people is the common experience of hardships in one or many aspects of life. Being disabled means a much harder life fraught with many more obstacles than those faced by other Americans.

Q.89

Table 10

MOST DIFFICULT BARRIER FACED IN CONNECTION WITH DISABILITY

Q.: What is the most difficult barrier that you have faced in connection with your disability or health problem over the years? What other barriers have you faced?

	Most Difficult Barrier	Other Barriers Faced
	%	%
Limited/lack of mobility	10	4
Unable to walk/stand/run/climb stairs	10	4
Unable to work because of disability	7	5
All aspects of life limited	4	3
Pain	4	3
Hearing problems/trouble hearing in groups	4	1
Unable to do housework	3	3
Need to depend on others/lack of independence	3	3
People's behavior towards me/reaction towards me	3	1
Unable to participate in sports	3	2
Can't see/can't see well enough to drive	2	2
Lack of strength/energy	2	2
Accepting oneself as disabled/accepting one's limitations/coming to terms with disability	2	1
Financial problems/lack of financial security	2	2
Unable to drive	2	1
Can't find a job	2	1
Social activities/social life limited	2	1
Breathing difficulties/people have trouble understanding speech	2	1
Surgery/recovering from surgery	1	1
Depression	1	1
Unable to lift/carry	1	2
Problems with family/family attitudes	1	*
Unable to get a better job	1	*
Lack of confidence/feeling of inadequacy	1	*
Taking medication	1	1
Problems with concentration/memory	1	*
Unable to use hands	1	1
Going to hospital/doctor often	1	*
Job insecurity	1	*
Weather conditions	*	1

(Continued)

Q.89

Table 10 (Continued)

MOST DIFFICULT BARRIER FACED IN CONNECTION WITH DISABILITY

	Most Difficult Barrier	Other Barriers Faced
	%	%
Lack of communication with people	*	*
Unable to read/write	*	1
Lack of education	*	*
Stress/anxiety	*	1
Loss of friends	*	*
Isolation/loneliness/alienation	*	1
Equal consideration from employer/job discrimination	*	1
Built environment inaccessible	*	-
Discrimination by insurers	*	*
Sex life limited	*	1
Inability to plan future/accomplish goals	*	-
Lack of motivation/use disability as excuse	*	-
Unable to get rehabilitation	*	-
Not treated as an equal	*	*
Unable to get treatment/medical care needed	*	*
Government policy towards disabled	*	*
Unable to work due to lack of transportation	-	*
Any other mentions	6	8
Don't know/no answer	4	-
No barriers faced	8	

*Less than 0.5%.

The Common Experience of Disability

A 57% majority of all disabled persons believe that their disability has prevented them from reaching their full abilities as a person (Table 11).

The size of the majority who believe that their disability has impeded their individual development rises significantly among very severely disabled persons(72%).

Self-perception also bears a heavy impact on how disabled persons view the overall effects of disability: a 27-point gap separates the views of those who do and those who do not consider themselves disabled. Seventy-one percent of those who consider themselves disabled say that they have not reached their full abilities because of their disability. But only 44% of those who do not consider themselves disabled feel this way.

Observation:

This finding is one of the most telling measures of the overall impact of disability. Disabled people face many individual obstacles, but disability has affected most in a negative way.

Q.87

Table 11

PERCENTAGE WHO FEEL DISABILITY HAS PREVENTED THEM FROM REACHING THEIR FULL ABILITIES AS A PERSON

Q.: Do you feel that your disability or health problem has in any way prevented you from reaching what you feel are your full abilities as a person, or not?

	Base		Has Prevented	Has Not Prevented	Not Sure/ Refused
Total	1,000	%	57	40	2
Age					
16-34 years	190	%	50	46	4
35-44 years	136	%	60	40	-
45-54 years	145	%	65	34	1
55-64 years	232	%	61	36	3
65 and over	296	%	54	43	3
Onset of Limitation					
Birth-adolescence	139	%	56	40	4
Young adult	226	%	64	35	1
Middle age	216	%	63	36	2
After age 55	336	%	58	40	3
Limitation of Activities					
Cannot work, keep house, etc.	455	%	69	28	3
Limited in amount or kind of work	381	%	56	43	2
Other activities limited	86	%	30	67	2
Not limited at all	77	%	22	78	-
Severity of Disability					
Slight	144	%	29	69	2
Moderate	310	%	52	45	2
Somewhat severe	284	%	62	36	1
Very severe	237	%	72	25	4
Self-Perception					
Considers self disabled	484	%	71	26	2
Does not consider self disabled	504	%	44	55	2
Satisfaction With Life					
Very/somewhat satisfied	692	%	49	48	2
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	35	%	63	28	9
Very/somewhat dissatisfied	242	%	79	20	1

CHAPTER 4: WHAT IT MEANS TO BE DISABLED: THE IMPACT ON SOCIAL LIFE

This chapter explores the effects of disability on people's social life and activities, basic activities, involvement in community life, personal life, and satisfaction with life.

The Effects of Being Disabled on Social Activities

A 56% majority of disabled Americans say that their disability prevents them from getting around, attending cultural or sports events, or socializing with friends outside their home as much as they would like (Table 12).

This figure rises to 67% among somewhat severely disabled persons, and to 79% among very severely disabled persons. In contrast, only 19% of slightly disabled persons and 45% of moderately disabled persons say that their disability limits their mobility or social life.

Low income, which is highly correlated with more severe disability, also appears to affect social life and mobility adversely. Disabled persons who have household incomes of $15,000 or less are more likely to say that their disability constrains their social life than are those with household incomes of more than $15,000.

-- Sixty-eight percent of the poorest disabled persons, those with $7,500 or less annually, say that their disability prevents them from having a full social life.

-- Only 42% of those in the $35,000 to $50,000 bracket, and 21% of those in the $50,000 or more bracket, say that their disability constrains their social life. Thus, for some, higher income eases the difficulties caused by disability.

The result of such limitations is that disabled people -- especially severely disabled people -- socialize less with friends and family than do non-disabled persons. A three-fourths majority (75%) of disabled persons say that they socialize at least once a week with family and friends, but this majority drops to 67% among very severely disabled persons.

In contrast, an 85% majority of non-disabled adults say that they socialize at least once a week (Table 13). And they socialize more frequently as well.

Q.17

Table 12

PERCENTAGE WHO SAY DISABILITY LIMITS THEIR MOBILITY OR SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Q.: Does your disability prevent you in any way from getting around, attending cultural or sports events, or socializing with friends outside your home as much as you would like to, or not?

	Base		Yes, Prevents	Does Not Prevent	Not Sure/ Refused
Total	1,000	%	56	43	1
Age					
16-34 years	190	%	39	60	1
35-44 years	136	%	53	47	-
45-54 years	145	%	63	36	1
55-64 years	232	%	56	44	*
65 and over	296	%	65	34	1
Onset of Limitation					
Birth-adolescence	139	%	47	51	1
Young adult	226	%	59	41	-
Middle age	216	%	60	39	1
After age 55	336	%	66	33	1
Limitation of Activities					
Cannot work, keep house, etc.	455	%	73	26	1
Limited in amount or kind of work	381	%	52	48	*
Other activities limited	86	%	29	71	-
Not limited at all	77	%	5	95	-
Severity of Disability					
Slight	144	%	19	81	-
Moderate	310	%	45	55	*
Somewhat severe	284	%	67	31	1
Very severe	237	%	79	20	*
Income					
$7,500 or less	249	%	68	31	1
$7,501 to $15,000	244	%	62	37	1
$15,001 to $25,000	163	%	45	55	-
$25,001 to $35,000	121	%	51	48	1
$35,001 to $50,000	76	%	42	58	-
$50,001 or more	49	%	21	79	-

*Less than 0.5%.

Q.19

Table 13

A COMPARISON BETWEEN DISABLED AND NON-DISABLED PERSONS:
HOW OFTEN THEY SOCIALIZE WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Q.: About how often do you socialize with close friends, relatives, or neighbors?

	Base		Less Than Once a Week	At Least Once a Week	Not Sure/ Refused
Non-Disabled Persons**	1,064	%	85	15	*
Total Disabled Persons	1,000	%	75	25	*
Age					
16-34 years	190	%	79	20	1
35-44 years	136	%	71	28	1
45-54 years	145	%	69	32	-
55-64 years	232	%	75	25	-
65 and over	296	%	78	22	*
Onset of Limitation					
Birth-adolescence	139	%	77	23	-
Young adult	226	%	75	25	*
Middle age	216	%	70	29	*
After age 55	336	%	76	24	*
Limitation of Activities					
Cannot work, keep house, etc.	455	%	69	31	*
Limited in amount or kind of work	381	%	79	20	1
Other activities limited	86	%	83	17	-
Not limited at all	77	%	81	20	-
Severity of Disability					
Slight	144	%	78	22	-
Moderate	310	%	80	19	*
Somewhat severe	284	%	75	24	*
Very severe	237	%	67	32	-

*Less than 0.5%.

**Based on a 1985 national sample of adults aged 18 and over who say that they don't have a limiting disability or health problem.

Disabled and Non-Disabled Persons: A Comparison of Social Activities

Disabled persons go to the movies and to cultural events far less often than does the adult population as a whole. Nearly two-thirds (64%) of all disabled persons never went to a movie in the past year. When the Harris firm asked all adults how often they went to the movies, only 22% said that they never went during the past year (Table 14).

The differences are equally large when comparing how often disabled and non-disabled persons go to the theater or to live music performances. Three-fourths of all disabled persons did not go to a live theater performance or live popular music performance in the past year. Among all adults, about four out of ten said that they had not done so.

A somewhat smaller gap of 16 points separates the proportion of disabled and non-disabled persons who never went to a live sports event in the past year. Two-thirds (66%) of disabled persons never went to a sports event, compared to 50% of all adults.

Observation:

Since the proportion of disabled and non-disabled persons living in or around metropolitan areas is about the same, it appears these differences are caused by a lack of money, mobility, transportation problems, difficulties entering public buildings, and perhaps under-education among disabled persons. These same factors probably also account for contrasts (shown in Table 15) of how often disabled and non-disabled persons visit grocery stores, restaurants, and churches or synagogues.

A much higher proportion of disabled persons than non-disabled persons never shop in a grocery store. Thirteen percent of disabled persons say that they never shop in a grocery store, compared to only 2% of non-disabled persons (Table 15). About six out of ten (62%) disabled persons visit a grocery store at least once a week, while nearly nine out of ten (87%) of non-disabled persons do so.

Table 15 also shows that disabled people are three times more likely than are non-disabled people to never eat in restaurants. Seventeen percent of disabled people never eat in restaurants, compared to 5% of non-disabled people. Only one out of three (34%) disabled persons goes to a restaurant once a week or more, compared to a 58% majority of non-disabled persons.

Observation:

> These findings offer more evidence that disabled Americans often lead less full and free lives than most other Americans. They have less choice about what they do and when they do it, whether it's shopping, or having a meal in a restaurant, or going to a movie or sports event.

Disabled Americans are also less involved in community life than are non-disabled Americans. Six out of ten non-disabled persons say that they are somewhat or very active in community groups such as religious groups, volunteer groups, or recreation groups. Only four out of ten disabled persons are active in these kinds of groups (Table 16).

Table 14

ATTENDANCE OF MOVIES, THEATER, AND LIVE MUSIC PERFORMANCES:
DISABLED ADULTS VERSUS ALL ADULTS

		None	Once	2-3 Times	4-5 Times	6-10 Times	11-20 Times	More Than 20 Times	Not Sure
Movie attendance in past 12 months									
Disabled persons	%	64	8	13	5	5	3	2	*
All adults	%	22	7	19	11	15	14	12	*
Attendance of Live Theater Performances in Past 12 Months									
Disabled persons	%	77	8	9	3	2	1	*	*
All adults	%	40	8	26	11	10	4	1	1
Attendance of Live Popular Music Performances in Past 12 Months									
Disabled persons	%	77	8	8	4	1	1	*	*
All adults	%	47	10	23	8	7	3	1	*
Attendance of Sports Events in The Past 12 Months									
Disabled persons	%	66	6	10	5	5	4	3	*
All adults	%	50	8	11	7	8	6	9	1

*Less than 0.5%.

Table 15

A COMPARISON OF GROCERY SHOPPING, CHURCH ATTENDANCE, AND RESTAURANT VISITS BETWEEN DISABLED AND NON-DISABLED PERSONS

		At Least Once a Week			Less Than Once a Week				
		More Than Twice a Week	Twice a Week	Once a Week	2 and 3 Times a Month	Once a Month	Less Than Once a Month	Never	Not Sure/ Refused
Supermarket Visits									
Disabled persons	%	15	16	31	12	8	5	13	*
Non-disabled persons**	%	29	26	32	7	2	1	2	1
Visits to a Restaurant									
Disabled persons	%	9	7	18	14	18	16	17	*
Non-disabled persons**	%	18	14	26	15	12	8	5	1
Church or Synagogue Attendance									
Disabled persons	%	5	5	30	7	9	12	32	1
Non-disabled persons**	%	5	5	43	6	7	14	19	1

*Less than 0.5%.

**Based on a 1986 national sample of 1,120 adults aged 18 and over who say that they don't have a limiting disability or health problem.

Q.20

Table 16

ACTIVISM IN COMMUNITY GROUPS: A COMPARISON BETWEEN DISABLED AND NON-DISABLED PERSONS

Q.: Are you very active, somewhat active, or not active in any community group such as a religious group, volunteer group, or recreation group?

	Base		Very Active	Somewhat Active	Not Active	Not Sure/ Refused
Non-Disabled Persons**	1064	%	28	32	40	*
Total Disabled Persons	1000	%	15	21	64	*
Age						
16-34 years	190	%	14	26	60	-
35-44 years	136	%	18	24	58	-
45-54 years	145	%	16	21	63	-
55-64 years	232	%	16	19	66	-
65 and over	296	%	14	19	67	*
Onset of Limitation						
Birth-adolescence	139	%	20	23	57	-
Young adult	226	%	15	23	62	-
Middle age	216	%	13	21	67	-
After age 55	336	%	13	19	68	*
Limitation of Activities						
Cannot work, keep house, etc.	455	%	8	16	76	*
Limited in amount or kind of work	381	%	21	27	52	-
Other activities limited	86	%	19	19	62	-
Not limited at all	77	%	25	21	54	-
Severity of Disability						
Slight	144	%	25	29	46	-
Moderate	310	%	17	24	59	-
Somewhat severe	284	%	13	21	66	-
Very severe	237	%	9	12	78	*

*Less than 0.5%.

**Based on a 1985 national sample of adults aged 18 and over who say that they don't have a limiting disability or health problem.

The Effects of Disability on Personal Life

The survey findings suggest that most disabled Americans do not commonly experience forms of discrimination in their daily relations with people. But the findings do show that being disabled has been an obstacle in the personal lives of many disabled Americans.

A 56% majority of disabled Americans say that other people treat them as equals after learning that they are disabled. Eleven percent say that other people act as if they feel sorry for them upon learning of their disability, and 7% say that others shy away from further contact with them (Table 17).

One out of five (21%) disabled persons said that none of these experiences describe their relations with most people, and 2% said that all of those experiences describe their relations with people.

However, half of all disabled Americans (51%) said that being disabled has limited their sexual activity, and one-quarter (26%) say that it has been a major limitation (Table 18).

Forty-two percent say that their disability has not limited their sexual activity in any way.

Two out of ten (20%) disabled Americans say being disabled has been an obstacle to marriage for them (Table 18). (There is virtually no difference between the proportion of disabled persons (56%) and non-disabled persons (58%) who are married.)

Only 7% of disabled Americans say that being disabled has had a negative effect on their ability to, or interest in, having children. The majority of disabled Americans (52%) say it has had no impact at all (Table 18).

Q.11

Table 17

HOW DISABLED PEOPLE SAY OTHERS REACT TO THEM

Q.: How would you describe the way people generally react toward you after they learn that you have a disability, handicap, or health problem — do they treat you as an equal, or act as if they feel sorry for you, or do they shy away from further contact with you, or don't any of these describe your experiences with people in general?

	Base		Treated as an Equal	Act Sorry for You	Shy Away From Further Contact	Some of These Describe Experiences	All of These Describe Experiences	None of These Describe Experiences	Not Sure/ Refused
Total	1,000	%	56	11	7	*	2	21	3
Onset of Limitation									
Birth-adolescence	139	%	46	13	13	1	3	24	1
Young adult	226	%	47	16	10	-	3	22	2
Middle age	216	%	59	12	3	1	1	20	5
After age 55	336	%	61	9	7	*	1	18	3
Limitation of Activities									
Cannot work, keep house, etc.	455	%	51	14	10	1	1	19	4
Limited in amount or kind of work	381	%	59	10	5	1	3	20	2
Other activities limited	86	%	62	6	2	-	1	26	3
Not limited at all	77	%	52	6	2	-	1	27	1
Severity of Disability									
Slight	144	%	63	5	2	-	1	28	1
Moderate	310	%	57	11	6	*	1	21	4
Somewhat severe	284	%	56	14	6	*	2	19	2
Very severe	237	%	50	13	13	1	2	17	3
Self Perception									
Considers self disabled	484	%	50	14	9	1	2	20	4
Does not consider self disabled	504	%	61	9	5	*	1	22	2

*Less than 0.5%.

Q.88a,88b,88c

Table 18

EFFECTS OF DISABILITY ÓN SEX LIFE, MARRIAGE OPPORTUNITIES, AND HAVING CHILDREN

Q.: Has your disability or health problem been a major limitation, a minor limitation, or no limitation at all on your sexual activity?

Q: And if you are not married, has your disability or health problem been a major obstacle, a minor obstacle, or no obstacle to your opportunities to marry?

Q: What about having children? Has your disability or health problem had a positive impact, a negative impact, or no impact at all on your ability to have children or your interest in having children?

	All Disabled Persons
Base	1000
	%
Limitation on Sex Life From Disabiliy	
Major limitation	26
Minor limitation	25
No limitation at all	42
Not sure/refused	8
Effects of Disability on Opportunities to Marry	
Major obstacle	13
Minor obstacle	7
No obstacle	32
Married (vol.)	39
Not applicable (vol.)	6
Not sure/refused	3
Impact of Disability on Ability to, or Interest in, Having Children	
Positive impact	6
Negative impact	7
No impact at all	52
Not applicable/past child-bearing age (vol.)	31
Not sure/refused	3

Satisfaction With Life

Not surprisingly, disabled Americans express less satisfaction with life than do non-disabled Americans. Sixty-nine percent of disabled persons say that they are somewhat or very satisfied with life, compared to 90% of non-disabled persons (Table 19).

Disabled persons are thus more likely to be dissatisfied with life than are non-disabled persons. Only six percent of non-disabled persons express dissatisfaction with life. That figure jumps four-fold to 24% among disabled persons. Dissatisfaction with life rises to 29% among somewhat severely disabled persons, and to more than a third (37%) among very severely disabled persons.

Observation:

Despite their disadvantaged status and frequent exclusion from activities enjoyed by most Americans, a large majority of disabled Americans are satisfied with their lives. Only a minority express dissatisfaction with life, a remarkable finding in light of the portrait of hardships revealed in these survey findings.

Q.9

Table 19

SATISFACTION WITH LIFE: A COMPARISON BETWEEN DISABLED AND NON-DISABLED PERSONS

Q.: How satisfied are you with life in general — very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

	Base		Very Satis-fied	Some-what Satis-fied	Neither Satis-fied Nor Dissat-fied	Some-what Dissat-fied	Very Dissat-fied	Not Sure/ Refused
Non-Disabled Persons*	1064	%	50	40	3	5	1	1
Total Disabled Persons	1000	%	39	20	3	16	8	3
Age								
16-34 years	190	%	35	42	4	12	5	1
35-44 years	136	%	38	26	4	17	15	-
45-54 years	145	%	28	32	4	22	12	2
55-64 years	232	%	43	25	2	20	8	3
65 and over	296	%	43	30	4	11	6	
Onset of Limitation								
Birth-adolescence	139	%	40	38	2	8	10	2
Young adult	226	%	32	33	6	18	9	1
Middle age	216	%	39	26	3	22	7	3
After age 55	336	%	38	29	3	16	8	6
Limitation of Activities								
Cannot work, keep house, etc.	455	%	29	30	3	21	12	4
Limited in amount or kind of work	381	%	43	31	3	14	6	3
Other activities limited	86	%	52	29	6	7	2	4
Not limited at all	77	%	62	29	1	5	3	-
Severity of Disability								
Slight	144	%	55	31	1	11	2	2
Moderate	310	%	47	33	4	10	3	2
Somewhat severe	284	%	31	33	4	23	6	3
Very severe	237	%	29	25	3	16	21	7

*Based on a 1985 national sample of adults aged 18 and over who say that they don't have a limiting disability or health problem.

CHAPTER 5: WORKING OR NOT WORKING: THE GREAT DIVIDE

These findings examine the employment status of disabled people, contrasts between disabled people who do or do not work, and the impact of working or not working on self-perception and satisfaction with life.

Employment Status of Working Age Disabled Americans

Not working is perhaps the truest definition of which it means to be disabled in this country. Two-thirds of all disabled Americans between age 16 and 64 are not working. Only one in four work full-time, and another 10% work part-time (Table 20). No other demographic group under 65 of any size has such a small proportion working. Young blacks, a group often singled out because of their very high level of unemployment, are much more likely to be working than are disabled Americans.

Observation:

It is in the area of work, even more than social life and activities, that disability excludes people most from mainstream American life. For most Americans, striving to reach one's abilities amounts to working to achieve career and financial goals. Our society expects people to work, and the preeminent criterion by which a person is judged and measured is the job that he or she does. Americans below retirement age, who do not work, live somewhat apart from the mainstream of life in this country. Unemployment excludes them from many of the common experiences known by most Americans.

Non-working disabled persons describe their employment status as follows: 4% are unemployed and actively looking for work; another 7% are

unemployed but not looking for work; 29% say that they are unable to work because of their disability; 9% are retired; 9% keep house; 6% are full-time students, including those in vocational rehabilitation programs; and 1% say that they do volunteer service full- or part-time.

Q.23

Table 20

EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF WORKING AGE DISABLED PERSONS

Base: 703 respondents aged 16-64

Q.: Which of the following categories best describes your current employment situation?

	%
Working	33
Full-time	24
Part-time	10
Not Working	66
Unemployed and looking for work	4
Unemployed but not looking	7
Unable to work because of disability/ health problem	29
Retired	9
Keeping house	9
Full-time student/trainee or in vocational rehabilitation	6
Full- or part-time volunteer service	1
Not sure/refused	1

Percent Who Want to Work

The survey asked non-working disabled Americans under age 65 if they would like to be working. A substantial 66% majority said that they would like to have a job (Table 21).

Observation:

This finding -- that most non-working disabled persons want to work -- is one of the most important and challenging findings in the survey. The challenge is how society can effect policies and programs which will bring these people into the working mainstream.

Table 21

PERCENT NOT WORKING WHO SAY THEY WANT TO WORK

Base: 372 working-age disabled persons currently not working

Do or Do Not Want to Work	Disabled Persons Aged 16-64 Who Are Not Working*
Want to work	66
Do not want to work	34

*Asked of all working-age unemployed persons, persons unable to work due to disability, retired persons, housekeeping, and volunteers. Not asked of students.

Percent In or Out of the Labor Force

Another way of looking at disabled persons' work status is by the proportion who are in or out of the labor force, as defined by the Census Bureau. (The Census defines the labor force as those currently working full- or part-time, and unemployed persons who have actively sought work in the past month.) Sixty-two percent of disabled persons aged 16 to 64 are out of the labor force -- not working and not looking for work (Table 45). These people must therefore depend on insurance or benefits checks for support, or on the support of someone else.

Observation:

The result offers another significant measure of isolation from the mainstream; and certainly a more significant measure than the basic unemployment rate. (The unemployment rate includes only those persons who are unemployed and actively looking for work in the past month -- about 4% among working-age disabled persons.)

Comparisons Between Working and Non-Working Disabled Persons

Working disabled persons are younger, better educated, and have higher incomes than do those who do not work (Table 22).

-- About four times as many working disabled persons have a four-year college education, as do those who don't work. And far fewer working disabled persons never finished high school (22%) than have the non-working majority (43%).

-- Over twice as many working disabled persons report a 1984 household income of $25,000 or more (44%) as do those who don't work (21%).

One of the few demographic similarities between the two groups is that both are divided about evenly between men and women. A small majority of those working are men (54%), and a small majority of those not working are women (53%).

As might be expected, working disabled persons are less limited in their activities and less severely disabled than are non-working disabled persons (Table 23). A 64% majority of those who work described their disability as slight or moderate. But an equally large majority (61%) of those who don't work described their disability as somewhat or very severe.

More working disabled persons became disabled earlier in life than did those who don't work (Table 23).

Observation:

This last finding suggests that those who become disabled late in life have more difficulty adjusting to their disabilities.

Table 22

A COMPARISON BETWEEN WORKING AND NON-WORKING DISABLED PERSONS ON KEY DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES

	Working Disabled Persons	Non-Working Disabled Persons
Base	244	454
	%	%
Age		
16-24 years	9	12
25-34 years	23	9
35-44 years	30	12
45-54 years	18	20
55-64 years	19	47
Income		
$7,500 or less	9	29
$7,501 or $15,000	20	25
$15,001 to $25,000	21	17
$25,001 to $35,000	20	10
$35,001 to $50,000	13	7
$50,001 to more	11	4
Education		
Less than high school	22	43
High school graduate	34	34
Some college	17	15
Four-year college graduate or more	27	7
Marital Status		
Married/living together	70	56
Single	16	19
Divorced/widowed/separated	14	25
Sex		
Male	54	47
Female	46	53

Table 23

A COMPARISON BETWEEN WORKING AND NON-WORKING DISABLED PERSONS ON KEY MEASURES OF DISABILITY

Base: Those aged 16-64

	Working Disabled Persons	Non-Working Disabled Persons
Base	244	454
	%	%
Onset of Limitation		
Birth to adolescence	20	16
Young adult	41	22
Middle age	18	31
After age 55	7	23
Not limited at all	12	7
Limitations of Activities		
Cannot work, keep house, etc.	15	58
Limited in amount or kind of work	57	29
Other activities limited	16	6
Not limited at all	12	7
Severity of Disability		
Slight	29	8
Moderate	35	29
Somewhat severe	27	30
Very severe	7	31

Self-Perception and Satisfaction With Life

There are profound differences of self-perception between working and non-working disabled persons. A 59% majority of non-working disabled persons aged 16 to 64 consider themselves disabled. Only one in four (26%) working disabled persons consider themselves disabled (Table 24).

Working disabled persons also express more satisfaction with life than do those who don't work. Eighty percent of those who work say that they are at least somewhat satisfied with life, compared to 62% of those who don't work (Table 24).

Many more non-working disabled persons also say that their disability has prevented them from reaching their full abilities as a person than do those who work. Six out of ten (60%) non-working disabled persons believe this, compared to 47% of working disabled persons (Table 24).

Observation:

The findings in Table 24 demonstrate how work shapes the self-perceptions and experiences of people in this society.

These findings also offer qualitative evidence of how non-working disabled persons' experiences differ even more from those of most Americans, than do the experiences of working disabled persons.

Table 24

A COMPARISON BETWEEN WORKING AND NON-WORKING DISABLED PERSONS OF SELF-PERCEPTION, SATISFACTION WITH LIFE, AND EFFECTS OF DISABILITY ON REACHING ABILITIES AS A PERSON

Base: Those aged 16-64

	Working Disabled Persons		Non-Working Disabled Persons	
Base	244		454	
	%		%	
Self-Perception				
Considers self disabled	26		59	
Does not consider self disabled	73		41	
Satisfaction With Life				
Very satisfied	48	80	32	62
Somewhat satisfied	32		30	
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	4		3	
Somewhat dissatisfied	12	15	21	33
Very dissatisfied	3		12	
Not sure/refused	1		2	
Effects of Disability on Reaching Abilities as a Person				
Disability has prevented person from reaching abilities	47		60	
Has not prevented person from reaching abilities	51		37	
Not sure/refused	2		2	

Job Satisfaction and Duration of Employment

The vast majority of disabled persons currently working full- or part-time express satisfaction with their jobs. Fifty-two percent say that they are very satisfied, and 31% are somewhat satisfied (Table 25).

Only 13% of those working express dissatisfaction with their jobs, and 5% are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.

A 58% majority of disabled persons who work full-time have worked full-time for at least five years without interruptions of a month of more -- another indicator that those who work are less limited in their activities and less severely disabled (Table 26).

Observation:

Table 26 also suggests something of great import: that many disabled persons are able to hold full-time jobs steadily for many years, without long periods of absence.

Q.24,34

Table 25

JOB SATISFACTION AMONG THOSE WORKING FULL- OR PART-TIME

Base: All disabled persons currently working full- or part-time

Q.: How satisfied are you with your job -- the kind of work you do? Are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

	Total
Base	260
	%
Very satisfied	52
Somewhat satisfied	31
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	5
Somewhat dissatisfied	9
Very dissatisfied	4
Not sure/refused	-

Q.26a

Table 26

HOW LONG DISABLED PERSONS WHO WORK FULL-TIME
HAVE WORKED WITHOUT INTERRUPTIONS

Base: Disabled persons working full-time

Q.: How long have you worked full-time without interruptions of a month or more, except for vacations? This includes all employers you may have worked for, and self-employment.

	Disabled Persons Working Full-Time
Base	174
	%
Have Worked Full-Time Without Interruptions:	
6 months or less	8
6 months to 1 year	4
1 to 2 years	11
2 to 3 years	7
3 to 4 years	4
4 to 5 years	6
5 to 10 years	17
10 to 20 years	21
20 years or more	20
Not sure/refused	1

Working in an Office or at Home

The great majority of disabled persons -- both those working and those not working -- would prefer to work in an office or other workplace, and not at home. Seventy percent say that they prefer to work in an office, and only 26% would prefer to work at home (Table 27).

Observation:

This finding provides yet another measure of how disabled persons want to be part of the mainstream of American life. Seven out of ten prefer to work outside of their home, like most working Americans do.

Q.31b,80d

Table 27

PERCENT WHO PREFER TO WORK IN AN OFFICE, OR AT HOME

Base: 596 working and non-working disabled persons aged 16-64

Q.: Would you prefer to work at home or would you rather work in an office, factory, or other workplace?

Q.: If you were working, would you prefer to work at home, or would you rather work in an office, factory, or other workplace?

	Total	Working Disabled Persons	Non-Working Disabled Persons
Base	596	244	352
	%	%	%
Would prefer to work at home	26	24	27
Would prefer to work in an office or other workplace	70	72	68
Not sure/refused	4	4	4

CHAPTER 6: BARRIERS TO ENTERING THE MAINSTREAM

The survey included a number of questions which identify barriers keeping disabled Americans from working, participating fully in other aspects of life, and getting the services which they need. This chapter focuses on these barriers. Policymakers should find these results useful as guides in their efforts to effect policies which will bring more disabled persons into the mainstream of American life.

Barriers to Full Participation in Social Activities

As mentioned earlier (see page 32), a 56% majority of disabled Americans say that their disability prevents them from getting around, socializing, or going to cultural events as much as they would like (Table 12). These people were then asked a number of questions to identify physical, structural, and attitudinal barriers which contribute to problems in their daily activities and social lives:

-- Fear is the barrier mentioned most frequently by disabled people as an important reason why their activities are limited. Six out of ten (59%) of those whose disability limits their activities say that fear that their disability might cause them to get hurt, sick, or victimized by crime is an important reason why this is so (Table 28). Surprisingly, this feeling is equally true for slightly, moderately, and severely disabled persons.

-- Dependency on other people for help getting around ranks second as a barrier which constrains disabled people's activities. A 56% majority of those whose activities are limited say that not always having someone to help them limits what they are able to do.

As Table 29 shows, a 54% majority of all disabled persons -- both those whose social activities are and are not constrained by their disability -- say that they need help from another person in at least one basic daily activity. Dependency on other people clearly prevents a sizeable proportion of this group from having as full a social life or as much mobility as they would like.

-- A lack of accessible transportation is another significant barrier to a full social life and full mobility for many disabled persons. Half (49%) of those whose mobility is limited say that an inability to use public transportation, or a lack of special transportation or someone to drive them, is an important reason why their activities are limited.

-- Lack of access to public buildings and public bathrooms is an important reason why four out of ten disabled persons whose mobility is limited say this is so.

-- Four out of ten disabled persons whose mobility is limited also say that self-consciousness about their disability is an important reason why they don't get around or have as much of a social life as they would like to.

Observation:

The findings clearly demonstrate that improving transportation services and access to public areas would help many disabled people get around easier and enter buildings and bathrooms without trouble.

The findings also reveal the need for more personal care attendants or assistance services. As Table 30 shows, the great majority of those who need help from someone else in daily activities currently depend on help from friends or relatives.

It will be much more difficult to alleviate fear or self-consciousness among disabled persons.

Q.18a

Table 28

REASONS WHY DISABLED PEOPLE'S MOBILITY OR SOCIAL ACTIVITIES ARE LIMITED

Base: Those who say their disability limits their mobility or activities

Q. Here are some reasons why people don't get around, attend events, or socialize with friends outside their homes as much as they want to. Please say if each is an important reason or is not an important reason why you don't get around, socialize, or attend events as much as you would like to.

	Total Disabled Persons	Slightly or Moderately Disabled	Somewhat or Very Severely Disabled
	559	165	378
	%	%	%
Because of fear that your disability or health problem might cause you to get hurt, sick, or victimized by crime	59	58	59
Because you need someone to go with you or help you but don't always have someone	56	48	59
Because you are not able to use public transportation or because you can't get special transportation or someone to give you a ride when you need one	49	44	51
Because you are self-conscious about your disability	40	40	40
Because you come across many public buildings and places that you can't get into or that have bathrooms which you can't use	40	38	40
Because you have difficulty in seeing, talking, or hearing	37	32	39

Q.8a, 8b

Table 29

PERCENT WHO NEED HELP IN DAILY ACTIVITIES FROM SPECIAL EQUIPMENT OR ANOTHER PERSON

Base: Those whose disability limits their activities in any way

Q.: When (READ EACH ITEM), do you regularly use any special equipment to help yourself or not?

Q.: Do you need help from another person when (READ EACH ITEM) or not?

		Help From Equipment			Help From a Person		
Base: 926		Yes	No	Not Sure/ Refused	Yes	No	Not Sure/ Refused
Walking or going outside	%	31	69	*	25	74	*
Bathing, getting dressed, or using the toilet	%	16	83	*	22	78	*
Getting in or out of bed	%	5	95	*	12	88	*
Eating	%	3	97	-	6	94	*
Shopping, doing household chores or preparing meals	%	10	88	2	42	56	2
Talking with other people	%	4	95	1	8	92	*
Using the telephone	%	6	94	1	9	90	1
Reading directions about how to use something	%	10	88	2	21	78	1
Total who need help in at least one activity		43%			54%		

*Less than 0.5%.

Q.8c

Table 30

WHETHER THE MAIN CAREGIVER IS A FRIEND OR RELATIVE,
A NURSE, OR SOMEONE ELSE

Base: Those who need help from another person in at least one activity

Q.: Most of the time when someone helps you, is it a friend or relative, or a nurse or personal care attendent?

	Total
Base	538
	%
Friend or relative	72
Proxy helps most (vol.)	20
Nurse/personal care attendant	6
Depends (vol.)	1
Not sure/refused	3

The responses shown in Table 31 offer more evidence of the individual nature of the many problems faced by disabled people. When asked what is the most important thing that could be done to help them face barriers caused by their disability, one out of five (22%) said that nothing could be done, another 21% asked for a cure or specific treatment, 13% gave no answer, and the remainder gave a variety of answers.

Observation:

More than one third of all disabled persons who face barriers in their lives related to their disability, say that nothing could be done to help them, or offered no answer to the question. These and a number of the other answers in Table 31 suggest that many disabled persons look at disability as a personal trial which they, and not society, are responsible for facing. Although other findings in the survey reveal an emerging group consciousness among disabled persons (see Chapter 9), it does not appear that many disabled persons regard disability as society's problem as well as their own.

Q.91

Table 31

MOST IMPORTANT THING THAT COULD BE DONE TO HELP DISABLED PEOPLE FACE BARRIERS SUCCESSFULLY

Base: 791 who say they still face barrier(s)

Q.: What is the most important thing that could be done to help you face this (these) barrier(s) successfully? (PROBE:) Is there anything else that could be done?

	Most Important Things That Could be Done	Other Things That Could Be Done (Other Mentions)
	%	%
Nothing/nothing can help	22	
Get better/improve health	6	*
Find a cure/cure me	6	*
Get specific treatment/therapy	5	1
Accept myself as disabled/accept limitations	5	1
Keep good psychological attitudes	4	1
Change people's attitudes/change the way people react towards me	3	1
Get specific equipment/device	3	*
Find a job/employment	3	1
Need someone to assist me	3	*
Improve financial situation/get more money	3	1
Counseling/support groups/therapy	3	1
Get medication/better medication	2	1
Support from friends, family, co-workers	2	*
Exercise	1	1
Make built environment accessible	1	1
Improve social life/get out more/see people more	1	1
Equal consideration from employers/change employer attitudes	1	1
Get education/more education	1	1
Get social security/government benefits	1	*
Get more social security/government benefits	1	*
Alleviate the pain	1	-
Get rehabilitation/get into a rehabilitation program	1	*
Better transportation	1	*
Have employer make adaptations/adapt workplace	1	*
Vocational/job training	*	*
Get insurance/better insurance coverage/better insurance for further disabilities	*	*
Improve/change government policy	*	*
Any other mentions	6	2
Don't know/no answer	13	

*Less than 0.5%.

Barriers to Working

The survey focused on some of the important reasons why two-thirds of all working-age disabled people are not working. The barrier to work named most often as important by working-age disabled people who don't work, or who work part-time, is that their disability limits their activities (78%). The other barrier to work cited by a majority of this non-working group is their need for medical care or therapy. Fifty-two percent say this is an important reason why they don't work, or only work part-time.

Observation:

These major barriers are difficult for policymakers to address. A core of disabled persons, unknown in size, will never be able to enter the workforce. However, other findings in the survey suggest that many of those who name limitations in activities and the need for care as barriers do not know about rehabilitation and medical services available to them. Table 39 shows that ignorance about services is clearly a barrier to many disabled people receiving vital services. Ignorance about services may also be a crucial barrier to work.

But in a number of areas there appears to be much room for changes which will help to employ many more disabled persons who want to work, and are capable of working (Table 32):

-- Forty-seven percent of working-age disabled persons who are not working, or working part-time, say that employers won't recognize that they are capable of doing a full-time job.

-- Also, four out of ten (40%) of this group say a lack of available jobs in their line of work, or their inability to find jobs, are important reasons why they are not working full-time -- perhaps another indicator that many jobs are not available to disabled persons.

-- Thirty-eight percent of these disabled persons say that under-education and a lack of marketable skills are important reasons why they are not working full-time.

-- About three out of ten (28%) say that a lack of accessible or affordable transportation is an important reason why they are not working.

-- And two out of ten (23%) disabled persons say that an important reason they are not working is a lack of needed equipment or devices to help them to work easier or communicate with other workers.

One issue raised frequently by observers in discussions of barriers which prevent disabled persons from working is fear of a loss of benefits, such as government health insurance. The survey findings show that 70% of disabled persons who currently receive benefits would lose some benefits if they started working full-time (Table 53).

But a much lower 18% of those not working at all, or working part-time, say that fear of a loss of benefits is an important reason why they are not working.

Observation:

It seems that fear of loss of benefits is not one of the most important reasons why so many disabled people do not work. The need for continued medical treatment, current employer attitudes, lack of education and skills, and transportation problems bar many more disabled persons from working.

Table 32

REASONS WHY PEOPLE ARE NOT WORKING AT ALL OR NOT WORKING FULL-TIME

Base: 276 disabled persons aged 16-64

	Important Reason %
Because your disability or health problem severely limits what you can do	78
Because you need medical treatment or therapy for your disability or health problem	52
Because employers won't recognize that you are capable of doing a full-time job due to your disability or health problem	47
Because you think no full-time work is available in your line of work or you can't find it	40
Because you don't have the skills, education, or training needed to get full-time jobs	38
Because you can't get affordable, convenient, or accessible transportation to and from work or housing near work	28
Because you need special equipment or devices to do your work, talk to hear other workers, or get around at work	23
Because you would lose benefits or insurance payments	18
Because you can't arrange childcare or have other family responsibilities	15

Employer Accommodations for Disabled Employees

Thirty-five percent of disabled persons who work now or who have worked full-time while disabled say that their employer made some sort of accommodation for their disability (Table 33). Sixty-one percent said that no accommodations were made.

Observation:

This finding suggests that some disabled persons currently working are able to work because their employer adopted a policy or provided some kind of help that allowed them to continue working.

Such accommodations cover a wide range of steps, including: specially adapted equipment or work areas, such as computer terminals, telephones, or office furniture; drinking fountains and bathrooms built to allow disabled persons to use them; flexible hours or break periods; and accessible entrances and elevators.

The implications for bringing more disabled persons into the workforce are clear: a greater willingness by employers to make accommodations will allow many more disabled persons to enter the workforce and, of equal importance, to return to work after becoming disabled.

Table 33

PERCENT OF WORKING-AGE DISABLED PERSONS WHO SAY THEIR EMPLOYER MADE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THEIR DISABILTY

Q.: Has your employer made accommodations for your disability or health problem, or not?

Q.: When you worked full-time, did your employer make accommodations for your disability or health problem, or not?

	Total*
Base	356
	%
Employer made accommodations	35
Accommodations not made	61
Not sure/refused	4

*Asked of those currently working full- or part-time and those not working who have full-time work experience while disabled.

Discrimination and Job Opportunities

One out of four (25%) working-age disabled persons say that they have encountered job discrimination because of their disability (Table 34).

The survey also provides other measures of perceived discrimination or decreased job opportunities for disabled persons:

-- Thirty-nine percent of those currently working feel that if they did not have a disability, they would have a somewhat better job (18%) or a much better job (21%) (Table 35). But a 56% majority feel that they would have about the same job if they were not disabled.

-- An overwhelming majority (83%) of working-age disabled persons who do not work, feel that if they did not have a disability, they "would have the kind of job (they) would like to have" (Table 36).

-- However, the great majority of disabled persons in these two groups -- those working who feel they would have a better job, and those not working -- feel that their disability has been a bigger obstacle than have employer attitudes, to their getting a better job (Table 37). Seventy-one percent feel that their actual disability has been a bigger obstacle to a better job than how employers reacted to their disability. Only 18% feel that how employers reacted to their disability has been a greater obstacle than the disability itself.

Observation:

Most working-age disabled people feel that they face narrower job opportunities because they are disabled -- including 39% of those currently employed. They also recognize that disabilities prevent them from doing some jobs.

But these findings may also be interpreted as more evidence that employer attitudes contribute to the high rate of unemployment among working-age disabled persons. The implications are that employer attitudes and hiring practices are responsible, in part, for both the low level of employment among disabled persons, and for the jobs that many disabled people hold now.

If these interpretations are accurate, then it will be necessary to inform, influence, and motivate employers in order to increase greatly the number of working disabled people.

Table 34

PERCENT OF WORKING-AGE DISABLED PERSONS WHO SAY THEY HAVE ENCOUNTERED JOB DISCRIMINATION

Q.: Do you feel that you have ever encountered job discrimination because of your disabilty or health problem, or not?

	Total*
Base	566
	%
Have encountered job discrimination	25
Have not encountered job discrimination	72
Not sure/refused	3

*Not asked of students, most retired persons, and unemployed persons not looking for work.

Q.29,36

Table 35

PERCEIVED EFFECT OF DISABILITY ON JOB OPPORTUNITIES
AMONG THOSE CURRENTLY WORKING

Base: Those aged 16-64 who currently work full- or part-time

Q.: How long have you worked full-time without interruptions of a month or more, except for vacations? This includes all employers you may have worked for, and self-employment.

Q.: If you didn't have a disability or health problem, do you think you would have a much better job, a somewhat better job, a somewhat worse job, a much worse job, or about the same job that you have now?

	Total
Base	244
	%
Without Disability, Would Have:	
Much better job	21
Somewhat better job	18
Somewhat worse job	3
Much worse job	1
About the same job	56
Not sure/refused	2

Q.45,78b

Table 36

PERCEIVED EFFECT OF DISABILITY ON JOB OPPORTUNITIES
AMONG THOSE NOT WORKING

Base: Those aged 16-64 whose employment status is unemployed but looking for work, or unable to work because of disability

Q.: If you didn't have a disability or health problem, do you think you would have the kind of job you would like to have, or not?

	Total
Base	235
	%
Would have kind of job wanted	83
Would not have kind of job wanted	13
Not sure/refused	4

Table 37

WHETHER THE DISABILITY, OR HOW EMPLOYERS REACT TO THE DISABILITY, IS MORE OF AN OBSTACLE TO A BETTER JOB

Base: Those aged 16-64 who currently work full- or part-time, and those whose employment status is unemployed but looking for work or unable to work

	Total	Working Full- or Part-Time	Unemployed and Looking for Work, or Unable to Work
Base	330	95	235
	%	%	%
Disability more of a barrier	71	56	77
Employers' reaction more of a barrier	18	27	14
Both equally significant barriers	2	3	2
Lack of skill, education bigger barrier (vol.)	2	5	1
Bad economy bigger barrier (vol.)	*	-	*
Lack of transportation bigger barrier (vol.)	*	-	*
Not sure/refused	6	8	6

*Less than 0.5%.

Vocational Rehabilitation

About 10% of all disabled persons say that they have attended a vocational rehabilitation program. Of this group, 27% feel that the program helped them a great deal to find a job, 15% said it helped them somewhat to find a job, 10% said it helped them not too much, and 46% said that vocational rehabilitation did not help them at all to find a job (Table 38).

Thus, the majority of disabled persons who have gone through vocational rehabilitation say that it provided little or no help to them in finding a job. But four out of ten (42%) say that it helped them at least somewhat to find a job.

Q.22e

Table 38

HOW MUCH VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION HELPED
DISABLED PERSONS TO FIND A JOB

Base: Those who attended a vocational rehabilitation program

Q.: How much did the vocational rehabilitation help you to find a job -- did it help you a great deal, somewhat, not too much, or not at all?

Base	Total 102 %
Vocational Rehabilitation:	
Helped a great deal to find a job	27
Helped somewhat	15
Not too much	10
Not at all	46
Not sure/refused	2

Barriers to Services for Disabled People

Most disabled persons are not familiar with some of the most widely available services for disabled persons, such as medical and rehabilitation services (Table 39).

-- Forty-four percent are familiar with medical and rehabilitation services for disabled persons.

-- Thirty-one percent are familiar with Section 8 and other housing for disabled persons.

-- One-quarter (25%) are familiar with independent living centers, one of the newest major services for disabled persons.

Majorities of disabled persons are familiar with vocational rehabilitation (60%) and transportation services (58%) for disabled persons.

A 53% majority of disabled persons also feel that it is difficult to find out about these services (Table 40). Twenty-five percent say it is somewhat hard, 21% say it is very hard, and 7% say it is almost impossible to find out about services available to disabled people.

Observation:

These findings strongly suggest that much more should be done to inform disabled people about key services available to them. As Table 39 shows, no more than 13% of disabled persons have used any one of these services, which are generally available nationwide. (However, the survey did not measure eligibility for these programs. Nor did it ask disabled people if they needed the services.)

One way to provide information about services would be to fund an 800 number that people could call to find out about services available to disabled persons in their state. Three-fourths (76%) of all disabled persons say that they would be very likely (52%) or somewhat likely (24%) to use an 800 number, free of charge, to find out about services for disabled people in their state (Table 41).

Q.93a, 93b

Table 39

FAMILIARITY WITH AND USE OF MOST COMMON SERVICES FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

Base: 1,000

Q.: I'm going to read you some services available to disabled people. Please say if you are familiar or not familiar with each service.

Q.: Have you used (READ ITEM), or not?

	Familiar %	Have Used %
Vocational rehabilitation	60	13
Transportation services for disabled people	58	10
Medical and rehabilitation services for disabled people	44	13
Section 8 and other housing for disabled people	31	3
Independent living centers	25	2

Q.94

Table 40

HOW HARD IT IS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE TO FIND OUT
ABOUT SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THEM

Q.: How hard do you think it is for people who need these services to find out about them -- is it almost impossible, very hard, somewhat hard, not too hard, or not hard at all?

Base	Total 1000 %
Almost impossible	7
Very hard	21
Somewhat hard	25
Not too hard	23
Not hard at all	17
Not sure/refused	8

Q.95

Table 41

PERCENT WHO WOULD CALL AN 800 TELEPHONE NUMBER TO FIND OUT ABOUT SERVICE IN THEIR STATE

Q.: One way to help people learn about services would be to have a free 800 telephone number for people to call, where they could find out about all services available to disabled people in their state. How likely would you be to call a free 800 number for help finding out about services available to you in your state -- very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, or not likely at all?

	Base		Very Likely	Some-what Likely	Not Too Likely	Not Likely at All	Not Sure/ Refused
Total	1,000	%	52	24	9	13	2
Age							
16-34 years	190	%	57	26	14	7	2
35-44 years	136	%	63	22	4	11	1
45-54 years	145	%	59	21	10	11	-
55-64 years	232	%	50	26	11	13	-
65 and over	296	%	44	26	8	18	4
Regions							
East	228	%	53	23	5	18	1
Midwest	254	%	51	23	13	13	*
South	321	%	51	23	11	12	3
West	197	%	55	27	8	10	1
Limitation of Activities							
Cannot work, keep house, etc.	455	%	57	20	9	13	2
Limited in amount or kind of work	381	%	53	26	8	11	1
Other activities limited	86	%	31	30	15	22	1
Not limited at all	77	%	44	29	13	15	-
Severity of Disability							
Slight	144	%	45	26	11	17	1
Moderate	310	%	50	26	10	13	1
Somewhat severe	284	%	58	23	9	10	1
Very severe	237	%	52	22	10	15	2

*Less than 0.5%.

Barriers to Insurance Coverage

Minorities of all disabled persons say that they have been refused different types of insurance, or had an insurance policy cancelled, because of their disability (Table 42).

-- Eighteen percent say that they have been refused Social Security disability payments or Supplemental Security Income.

-- Thirteen percent say that they have been refused health insurance, or had it cancelled, because of their disability.

-- Eleven percent say that they have been refused life insurance, or had it cancelled, because of their disability.

Q.98,99

Table 42

PERCENT WHO SAY THEY HAVE BEEN REFUSED INSURANCE
OR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

Q.: Have you ever been refused (READ ITEM) by an insurance company or had one cancelled because of your disability or health problem, or not?

Q.: Have you ever been refused Social Security disability (SSDB or SSDI) benefits or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or not?

Base: 1,000

Have Been Refused:

An auto insurance policy	4%
A health insurance policy	13%
An accident insurance policy	3%
A life insurance policy	11%
A disability insurance policy	5%
Social Security disability (SSDB or SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	18%

Barriers to Education

About one-third (34%) of all disabled persons whose disability began at birth through adolescence say that they have attended a special school or special classes for disabled persons (Table 43).

Nearly half (47%) of this same group -- those who became disabled in their first nineteen years -- say that their disability has caused them to miss some (29%) or most (18%) of the opportunities available to students in their school. Another 17% say they missed only a few opportunities in school because of their disability. And one-third (32%) say they missed none of the opportunities available in their school because of their disability (Table 44).

Observation:

The only clear conclusion to draw from Table 43 and Table 44 is that a majority of those who went through school while disabled say that it excluded them in some way from a full educational experience.

These data provide no measure of the impact of the Education Act of 1975, since only a small minority of the sample were educated since its passage. This subject should be examined in a separate survey, which focuses on disabled people currently in school, and those educated in the past decade.

Q.4b

Table 43

PERCENT WHO HAVE ATTENDED A SPECIAL SCHOOL OR SPECIAL CLASSES

Base: Those whose disability began at birth through adolescence

Q.: Do you, or did you ever attend a special school or special classes for students with disabilities, or not?

	Total Whose Disability Began at Birth Through Adolescence
Base	217
	%
Yes, attended	34
No, did not attend	65
Not sure/refused	*

*Less than 0.5%.

Q.4d

Table 44

PERCENT WHO SAY THEIR DISABILITY CAUSED THEM
TO MISS OPPORTUNITIES IN SCHOOL

Base: Those whose disability began at birth through adolescence

Q.: In general, do you feel that your disability or health problem has caused you to miss most of the opportunities, some of the opportunities, only a few of the opportunities, or practically none of the opportunities available to all other students?

	Total Whose Disability Began at Birth Through Adolescence
Base	217
	%
Disability Caused Them to...	
Miss most opportunities	18
Miss some opportunities	29
Miss only a few opportunities	17
Miss none of the opportunities	32
Not sure/refused	4

CHAPTER 7: BENEFITS: WHO GETS THEM

These findings show the proportion of non-working disabled persons who do or do not receive benefits and insurance payments; which disabled people are most likely to receive benefits; and which disabled people must depend mostly on other people for support.

Benefits: How Many Receive Them

As mentioned in Chapter 5, 62% of all working-age disabled persons are not working and out of the labor force (not actively looking for work) (Table 45). About six out of ten disabled people in this group (36% of all disabled persons under 65) receive some sort of income support from either insurance payments or government benefit programs. The rest of those not working and not in the labor force (40%), most of whom are women, say that they receive no benefits from either an insurance company or from government programs.

Of those receiving benefits, a 60% majority say that they are the main wage earner in their household, another indication of the financial pressures affecting disabled people.

Table 45

PERCENT OF WORKING-AGE DISABLED PERSONS
IN OR OUT OF THE LABOR FORCE

Base: 703 respondents aged 16-64

	%
In Labor Force*	38
Out of Labor Force**	62
Receiving government benefits or insurance payments	36
Not receiving benefits or payments	24
Not sure if receiving benefits or payments	2

*Defined as working full-time, working part-time, or unemployed and looking for work in past month.

**Defined as unemployed and not looking for work, those unable to work because of disability, retired, housekeeping, students or trainees, and volunteer workers.

Who Is Most Likely to Receive Benefits

As a group, those not receiving benefits tend to have more money and more education than those who receive benefits (Table 46). (One reason is that a 69% majority of those not receiving benefits say that someone else is the main wage earner in their household.)

Those not receiving benefits also have somewhat more education, as a group, than do those receiving benefits. Thirty percent of those not receiving benefits have at least some college education, compared to 18% of those receiving benefits.

The more severe the disability, the more likely it is that a person is receiving benefits (Table 47). A far greater proportion of those receiving benefits (72%) say that they are somewhat or very severely disabled than do those in the group not receiving benefits (46%).

Observation:

The data suggest that, in general, benefits are going to the right people.

Overall, disabled persons receiving benefits are the most severely disabled, the most limited in their activities, and the most disadvantaged group among all disabled persons. They have less education, less money, and most must also support themselves and their dependents.

Table 46

A COMPARISON BETWEEN THOSE IN THE LABOR FORCE, THOSE RECEIVING BENEFITS, AND THOSE NOT RECEIVING BENEFITS ON KEY DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES

	In The Labor Force	Out of the Labor Force	
		Receiving Benefits	Not Receiving Benefits
Base	277	244	167
	%	%	%
Age			
16-24 years	11	8	16
25-34 years	25	7	9
35-44 years	29	12	10
45-54 years	17	12	19
55-64 years	18	52	46
Income			
$7,500 or less	10	36	21
$7,501 or $15,000	21	29	19
$15,001 to $25,000	20	15	20
$25,001 to $35,000	19	7	14
$35,001 to $50,000	13	4	11
$50,001 to more	10	1	8
Education			
Less than high school	23	47	39
High school graduate	36	34	31
Some college	17	13	20
Four-year college graduate or more	24	5	10
Marital Status			
Married/living together	67	56	58
Single	18	17	19
Divorced/widowed/separated	15	27	22
Sex			
Male	54	58	28
Female	46	42	72

Table 47

A COMPARISON BETWEEN THOSE IN THE LABOR FORCE,
THOSE RECEIVING BENEFITS,
AND THOSE NOT RECEIVING BENEFITS ON KEY MEASURES OF DISABILITY

Base: Those aged 16-64

	In the Labor Force	Out of the Labor Force	
		Receiving Benefits	Not Receiving Benefits
Base	277	244	167
	%	%	%
Onset of Limitation			
Birth to adolescence	21	14	18
Young adult	42	25	14
Middle age	18	33	31
After age 55	7	24	25
Not limited at all	121	3	12
Limitations of Activities			
Cannot work, keep house, etc.	17	73	42
Limited in amount or kind of work	55	21	38
Other activities limited	16	3	8
Not limited at all	12	3	12
Severity of Disability			
Slight	27	5	12
Moderate	37	21	3
Somewhat severe	27	33	24
Very severe	6	39	23

Q.96

Table 48

PERCENT OF WORKING-AGE DISABLED PERSONS RECEIVING INSURANCE PAYMENTS OR GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS

Q.: Now I'd like to mention different kinds of programs and benefits that people have. As I read each of the following items, please tell me whether you currently receive the benefit or payment or not.

Those Receiving...	%
Unemployment insurance	2
Worker's compensation	6
Short-term disability insurance	3
Private long-term disability insurance	5
Supplemental Security Income or SSI, or Social Security disability benefits (SSDB or SSDI)	29
Aid to families with dependent children or AFDC	4
Veterans benefits	11
Total who receive either an insurance payment or government benefit	46

Q.97

Table 49

PERCENT OF WORKING-AGE DISABLED PERSONS COVERED BY PRIVATE OR GOVERNMENT HEALTH PLANS

Base: 703 respondents aged 16-64

Q.: Now I'd like to read off a few different kinds of health plans or health insurance that people have, including those provided by the government. As I read each of the following health plans, please tell me whether you are currently covered by it or not?

Those Covered By...	%
Health insurance through work, a union, or some other group	49
Private health insurance bought by yourself or someone else in the family	32
Medicare Part A or Part B, that pays hospital or doctor's bills for people aged 65 and over and for some disabled people	21
Medicaid or public aid	13
Total who are covered by private or government health insurance	82

CHAPTER 8: BENEFITS, PUBLIC POLICY, AND EMPLOYING MORE DISABLED PERSONS

This chapter contains a number of findings which explore disabled Americans' views about benefits, and various policies which government and society could take to employ more disabled Americans. There are also analyses of differences in opinion among various demographic groups of disabled persons, and among those whose disabilities differ in severity.

How Society Should be Involved With Disabled Persons

Overwhelming majorities of disabled persons think that government and the private sector should (1) increase efforts to educate, train, and rehabilitate disabled persons so that they can join the workforce; and (2) increase efforts to provide equipment and adapt workplaces, so that disabled persons can work better and communicate more easily with other workers (Table 50).

— Ninety-five percent of disabled persons think that there should be increased efforts to educate, train, and rehabilitate disabled persons, so that they can work.

— Ninety-four percent of disabled persons say that there should be more special equipment in offices and factories, so that disabled persons can work more easily and communicate better with other workers.

Much more surprisingly, almost eight out of ten disabled persons (78%) also feel that there should be <u>less</u> government spending for disabled people who are able to work but don't. (The survey did not seek to quantify the number of disabled persons who can work but don't. But two-thirds (66%)

of those below 65, who currently do not work, say that they want to work (Table 21).)

Large majorities of disabled persons also feel that society must take care of all disabled persons who cannot work, "so that they can live comfortably without working." Eighty-nine percent of disabled persons approve at least somewhat of increased government and private benefits for disabled persons who cannot work.

Disabled people also seem to be ambivalent about society pressuring disabled persons to go out and work, regardless of their health. A 54% majority of disabled persons approve at least somewhat of society taking better care of all disabled persons, "so that they aren't forced to go out and work." But almost as many disabled persons, 43%, disapprove strongly or somewhat of society taking this direction in its policies toward disabled persons.

Observation:

There are obvious contradictions in some of these answers, depending on the wording and emphasis of the questions. On balance, most disabled persons strongly support efforts by government and employers to find ways to allow more disabled persons to join the working mainstream, while also providing for those who are genuinely unable to work.

In the following analysis of these same responses, a similar overall pattern will emerge.

Q.15b

Table 50

RESPONSES TO PROPOSALS ON HOW SOCIETY SHOULD BE INVOLVED WITH DISABLED PERSONS

Q.: I will read you some proposals which have been made on how society should be involved with disabled Americans. Please say for each one whether you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove (READ EACH ITEM).

	Strongly Approve %	Somewhat Approve %	Somewhat Disapprove %	Strongly Disapprove %	Not Sure %
There should be increased efforts by society for education, job training, and rehabilitation for disabled people, so they can work to support themselves instead of depending on the government	66	29	2	2	2
There should be increased government and private benefits for disabled people who cannot work, so that they can live comfortably without working	56	33	6	3	2
There should be less government and private spending and benefits for disabled people who can work to support themselves	47	31	8	9	5
There should be increased efforts by society for disabled people to have special equipment and devices in offices and factories, so they can work better and communicate with other workers more easily	68	26	2	1	2
Society should take better card of all disabled people, so they aren't forced to go out and work	27	27	22	21	31

Self-Sufficiency Versus Protection by Society:
An Index of Disabled Persons' Views

Table 51 profiles an index of opinion about how society should be involved with disabled persons. The index was constructed by assigning numerical values to responses to the first, second, third, and fifth proposals from Table 50. All responses in favor of society helping disabled persons to be self-sufficient were assigned a positive value. All responses which favor society protecting disabled persons were assigned a negative value. The values were then summed across all four questions to yield a composite measure of disabled persons who on balance favor self-sufficiency, those who have mixed views, and those who on balance favor society protecting disabled persons. This measurement does not guarantee that all those who fall into the two polar positions would always express views consistent with their position, but rather that they would tend strongly toward that position.

A 53% majority of all disabled Americans favor government and society taking steps which will help more disabled persons to be self-sufficient. Less than half as many disabled persons (25%) believe that disabled persons should be protected by society. The remaining 22% have mixed views, which means that they are either unsure about their stance on two or more key proposals, or that they express views which favor both self-sufficiency and protection by society.

Both polar groups -- those who favor self-sufficiency and those who favor protection by society -- are highly correlated with income and education. Disabled persons with the most money, and at least some college education, are far more likely to favor self-sufficiency than are those with household incomes of less than $15,000 and less than high school education.

For example:

-- Among those with incomes of $25,000 or more, majorities ranging from 62% to 85% favor society working to make more disabled people self-sufficient. Only 39% of those with $7,500 or less annually, and 48% of those with $7,500 to $15,000, favor self-sufficiency.

-- In contrast, over twice as many of those in the lowest income bracket favor protection by society (35%) as do those in the $35,000 to $50,000 bracket (15%).

-- A 72% majority of those with a four-year college education favor self-sufficiency, compared to only 38% of those with less than a high school diploma.

-- Nearly three times as many disabled persons who did not finish high school favor protection (36%) as do those with a four-year college education (13%).

The likelihood of falling into either polar group is also correlated with severity of disability and self-perception (Table 52). Those who describe their disability as very severe and those who consider themselves disabled are less likely to favor self-sufficiency, than are less severely disabled persons and those who don't consider themselves disabled. The most severely disabled persons are also more likely to favor protection by society, than are less severely disabled person.

-- Forty-three percent of the very severely disabled favor self-sufficiency, compared to 56% of moderately disabled persons and 63% of slightly disabled persons.

-- A 60% majority of those who do not consider themselves disabled favor self-sufficiency, while less than half (46%) of those who consider themselves disabled consistently fall into this group.

Table 51

SELF-SUFFICIENCY VERSUS PROTECTION BY SOCIETY: AN INDEX OF DISABLED PEOPLE'S VIEWS

		Age							Household Income						Education				Sex	
	Total	16-24 Years	25-34 Years	35-44 Years	45-54 Years	55-64 Years	65-74 Years	75 and Over	$7,500 or Less	$7,500 to $15,000	$15,001 to $25,000	$25,001 to $35,000	$35,001 to $50,000	$50,000 or More	Less Than High School	High School Graduate	Some College	4-Year College Graduate or More	Male	Female
Base	1000	84	106	136	145	232	182	114	249	244	163	121	76	49	393	317	150	135	447	553
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Helped to be self-sufficient	53	46	61	65	55	53	48	44	39	48	61	62	70	85	38	56	67	72	51	54
Mixed views	22	24	19	17	24	25	19	26	27	25	18	24	16	10	26	23	17	14	23	21
Protected by society	25	30	20	18	21	22	33	30	35	27	21	14	15	6	36	21	16	13	26	24

Table 52

SELF-SUFFICIENCY VERSUS PROTECTION BY SOCIETY: AN INDEX OF VIEWS BY KEY MEASURES OF DISABILITY

		Onset of Limitation				Limitation of Activities				Severity of Disability				Self-Perception	
	Total	Birth-Adolescence	Young Adult	Middle Age	After Age 55	Cannot Work, Etc.	Limitation in Amount or Kind of Work	Other Activities Limited	Not Limited at All	Slight	Moderate	Somewhat Severe	Very Severe	Considers Self Disabled	Does Not Consider Self Disabled
Base	1000	139	226	216	336	455	381	86	77	144	310	284	237	484	504
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Helped to be self-sufficient	53	60	60	51	48	43	64	62	49	63	56	56	43	46	60
Mixed views	22	22	21	20	24	26	18	18	24	16	21	22	28	26	18
Protected by society	25	18	18	29	28	31	18	20	27	21	23	22	30	29	21

LOUIS HARRIS AND ASSOCIATES

How Benefit Status and Income Would Change if Working Full-Time

Two factors which could work against efforts to bring more disabled people into the workforce are the potential loss of key benefits, and insignificant increases in income for those who begin full-time work.

Seventy-percent of those currently out of the labor force and receiving benefits would lose benefits if they began working full-time (Table 53).

Observation:

As mentioned in Chapter 6, fear of a loss of benefits was one of the least important reasons why many disabled persons are not working. Nevertheless, the loss of a key benefit, such as Medicare, could well exert a dragging effect on sustained efforts by society to employ more disabled persons.

The survey also asked those working part-time, and those who describe their work status as unable to work, how their income would change if they began to work full-time (Tables 54 and 55). The great majority of these disabled persons believe that their income would increase if they began to work full-time. Seventy-two percent of those working part-time, and 75% of those not working say that their incomes would increase if they began to work full-time.

But 24% of those working part-time and 19% of those not working say that their income would decrease or stay the same if they began working full-time.

Observation:

The prospect of working full-time without receiving more income, or even losing income, certainly will not help induce this minority of disabled persons to seek full-time work.

But these people are a minority. Two-thirds of all working-age disabled persons, who do not work, say that they want to work, and many believe that their income would increase.

Table 53

PERCENT RECEIVING BENEFITS WHO WOULD LOSE BENEFITS IF WORKING FULL-TIME

Base: 181 working-age disabled persons not in labor force who receive benefits

Would or Would Not Lose Benefits if Working Full-time	Disabled Persons Not in Labor Force and Receiving Benefits
	%
Would lose benefits	70
Would not lose benefits	30

*Includes only working-age unemployed persons not looking for work, persons unable to work due to disability, those keeping house, and volunteers who say they receive government payments or insurance payments. Not asked of students and retired persons. Excludes those "not sure" about receiving benefits.

Q.38d

Table 54

HOW INCOME WOULD CHANGE IF THOSE WORKING PART-TIME BEGAN WORKING FULL-TIME

Base: Disabled persons aged 16-64 who work part-time

Q.: If you were working full-time, do you think your total income and benefits would be much higher, somewhat higher, somewhat lower, much lower, or about the same as your total income and benefits are now?

	Disabled Persons Aged 16-64 Working Part-Time
Base	70
	%
If Working Full-Time, Income Would Be:	
Much higher	43
Somewhat higher	29
Somewhat lower	3
Much lower	3
About the same	18
Not sure/refused	3

Q.80c

Table 55

HOW INCOME WOULD CHANGE IF THOSE CURRENTLY UNABLE TO WORK BEGAN WORKING

Base: Those aged 16-64 who describe employment status as unable to work because of disability

Q.: If you were working, do you think your total income and benefits would be much higher, somewhat higher, somewhat lower, much lower, or about the same as your total income and benefits are now?

	Disabled Persons Aged 16-64 Who Say They Are Unable to Work
Base	202
	%
If Working, Income Would Be:	
Much higher	53
Somewhat higher	22
Somewhat lower	4
Much lower	6
About the same	9
Not sure/refused	5

CHAPTER 9: DISABLED AMERICANS AS AN UNDERPRIVILEGED GROUP: AN EMERGING GROUP IDENTITY

The survey included three attitudinal questions never before asked of a national sample of disabled Americans: the extent to which they feel a sense of common identity with other disabled Americans; whether or not they feel that disabled persons are a minority group in the same sense as blacks and Hispanics; and whether or not anti-discrimination laws should cover disabled Americans.

A Sense of Common Identity

A 74% majority of all disabled Americans say that they feel at least some sense of common identity with other disabled people. Four out of ten disabled persons say that they feel a somewhat or very strong sense of common identity (Table 56).

The strength of this identification varies little among disabled people of all ages, those who have been disabled all or only part of their lives, and among those who are moderately or severely disabled.

Observation:

A sense of common identity is clearly prevalent among most disabled Americans, including many of those who are slightly disabled or who do not consider themselves disabled.

These results show clear signs of an emerging group consciousness. Many other findings in the survey indicate that most disabled persons view their disability as their own problem. But these attitudinal data suggest that the common experience of not working and facing limitations in physical and social activities, affects how disabled persons relate to, and perceive, other disabled people.

Q.12

Table 56

HOW MUCH COMMON IDENTITY DISABLED PEOPLE FEEL WITH OTHER DISABLED PEOPLE

Q.: To what extent do you feel that you have a sense of common identity with other disabled people -- do you feel that you have no sense of common identity, some sense of common identity, a somewhat strong sense of common identity, or a very strong sense of common identity?

	Base		No Sense of Common Identity	Some Sense	Somewhat Strong Sense	Very Strong Sense	Not Sure/ Refused
Total	1,000	%	16	34	20	20	10
Age							
16-34 years	190	%	18	39	24	18	1
35-44 years	136	%	16	45	16	21	2
45-54 years	145	%	14	32	22	23	8
55-64 years	232	%	15	34	22	22	8
65 and over	296	%	18	29	16	19	19
Onset of Limitation							
Birth-adolescence	139	%	11	41	22	23	3
Young adult	226	%	14	40	20	19	7
Middle age	216	%	11	33	27	22	7
After age 55	336	%	20	30	15	20	15
Limitation of Activities							
Cannot work, keep house, etc.	455	%	14	31	17	23	14
Limited in amount or kind of work	381	%	17	36	23	20	5
Other activities limited	86	%	15	45	18	12	10
Not limited at all	77	%	31	32	15	16	6
Severity of Disability							
Slight	144	%	25	41	18	11	5
Moderate	310	%	20	33	19	18	11
Somewhat severe	284	%	12	39	25	19	5
Very severe	237	%	12	27	15	30	15
Self-Perception							
Considers self disabled	484	%	8	35	21	25	10
Does not consider self disabled	504	%	25	33	18	16	8

Whether or Not Disabled Persons Are a Minority Group

Almost half of all disabled Americans, 45%, feel that disabled persons are a minority group in the same sense as are blacks and Hispanics. A nearly equal number, 42%, feel that disabled persons are not a minority group in this sense, and 12% were not sure or refused to answer the question.

However, majorities of younger disabled persons and those disabled from birth to adolescence (in large part the same people) believe that disabled persons are a minority group. For example, 56% of those whose disability began to limit them from birth to adolescence say that disabled persons are a minority group, compared to only 43% of those disabled after age 55.

Somewhat fewer slightly disabled persons (40%) feel that disabled persons are a minority group than do moderately (48%) or severely disabled persons (46%).

Observation:

In Chapter 1, it was shown that those disabled earlier in life are less likely to consider themselves disabled. The findings in this section suggest a reason why this is so. This group seems, instead, more likely to consider themselves members of a disadvantaged minority group.

Whether or Not Anti-Discrimination Laws Should Cover Disabled Persons

When it comes to how disabled persons should be treated under the law, a near consensus emerges. Three out of every four (75%) disabled persons believe that civil rights laws that protect minorities against discrimination should also protect them. Only 17% disagree (Table 58).

Observation:

As mentioned in Chapter 1, a large majority of disabled Americans feel that federal laws passed in the past decade have helped disabled persons. But that does not mean that the agenda is complete, and the work finished. While the survey did not explore, in any detail, steps that the federal government specifically might take in the future, there are several indicators that government could do much more to improve the quality of life of disabled Americans.

Q.14a

Table 57

WHETHER OR NOT DISABLED PERSONS ARE A MINORITY GROUP

Q.: Do you feel that disabled persons are a minority group in the same sense as are blacks and Hispanics, or not?

	Base		Disabled Are a Minority Group	Not a Minority Group	Not Sure/ Refused
Total	1,000	%	45	42	12
Age					
16-34 years	190	%	54	40	5
35-44 years	136	%	53	44	3
45-54 years	145	%	48	41	12
55-64 years	232	%	45	43	13
65 and over	296	%	37	43	20
Onset of Limitation					
Birth-adolescence	139	%	56	35	9
Young adult	226	%	49	43	8
Middle age	216	%	40	48	12
After age 55	336	%	43	39	19
Limitation of Activities					
Cannot work, keeps house, etc.	455	%	43	40	17
Limited in amount or kind of work	381	%	47	43	9
Other activities limited	86	%	45	45	10
Not limited at all	77	%	48	50	2
Severity of Disability					
Slight	144	%	40	52	8
Moderate	310	%	48	41	11
Somewhat severe	284	%	45	45	10
Very severe	237	%	47	36	17

Q.14b

Table 58

WHETHER OR NOT ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAWS SHOULD COVER DISABLED PEOPLE

Q.: Do you think that the civil rights laws that cover minorities against discrimination should also cover disabled persons, or not?

	Base		Should Be Covered	Should Not Be Covered	Not Sure/ Refused
Total	1,000	%	75	17	9
Age					
16-34 years	190	%	82	14	4
35-44 years	136	%	83	11	6
45-54 years	145	%	77	17	6
55-64 years	232	%	72	21	8
65 and over	296	%	68	18	14
Onset of Limitation					
Birth-adolescence	139	%	86	10	4
Young adult	226	%	77	17	5
Middle age	216	%	73	20	7
After age 55	336	%	71	16	13
Limitation of Activities					
Cannot work, keep house, etc.	455	%	75	15	10
Limited in amount or kind of work	381	%	73	19	7
Other activities limited	86	%	79	12	10
Not limited at all	77	%	72	23	5
Severity of Disability					
Slight	144	%	74	19	7
Moderate	310	%	78	15	7
Somewhat severe	284	%	72	19	9
Very severe	237	%	75	15	10
Self-Perception					
Considers self disabled	484	%	75	15	9
Does not consider self disabled	504	%	73	19	8

METHODOLOGICAL APPENDIX

Introduction

The ICD Survey of Disabled Americans was conducted by Louis Harris and Associates for ICD-International Center for the Disabled, in cooperation with the National Council on the Handicapped. The project required a large nation-wide screening effort. During November and December, 1985, the Harris firm contacted some 12,500 Americans, aged 16 and over, in randomly chosen telephone households across the country. This level of screening permitted the locating and interviewing of a representative national sample of 1,000 disabled Americans, aged 16 and over, who met at least one of the definitional criteria used in the survey.

The 12,500 people were contacted via 10 separate national Harris samples. In each household contacted, a person at least 16 years of age was asked the key screening questions, to determine if a disabled person currently lived in that household.

The wording used by Harris interviewers in conducting the screening is shown on the next two pages.

LOUIS HARRIS AND ASSOCIATES, INC.
630 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10111

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Questionnaire No.: _____ 5-6-7-8

Study No. 854009

Time Started: _____ A.M./P.M.

November 1985

Sample Point No. | | | | | | | | 10-11-12-13-14-15-16

Interviewer: _____ I.D. No.: _____ Date: _____

Area Code: _____ Telephone No.: _____ (17-26)

Hello, I'm _____ from Louis Harris and Associates, the national research firm in New York. We're conducting a nationwide survey about health care issues, and would like to speak to someone in your household. Are you 16 years old or over?

INTERVIEWER: IF "YES" TO A SCREEN QUESTION ON LIMITATION OR DISABILITIES, AND AGE 16 OR OVER, SCREEN IN.

IF RESPONDENT IS ON PHONE, ASK FOR FIRST NAME AND EXPLAIN THAT SOMEONE WILL CALL THEM SOON TO CONDUCT THE INTERVIEW. THANK THEM.

IF "SOMEONE ELSE," ASK FIRST NAME OF THAT PERSON AND WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE ABLE TO BE INTERVIEWED. IF NOT ABLE, ASK FOR FIRST NAME OF PROXY WHO KNOWS MOST ABOUT THAT PERSON.

TELL PERSON ON PHONE THAT SOMEONE WILL BE CALLING THE RESPONDENT OR THE PROXY SOON TO CONDUCT THE INTERVIEW, AND THANK THEM FOR THEIR HELP.

IF MORE THAN ONE DISABLED PERSON IN HOUSEHOLD, FOLLOW SELECTION PROCEDURE.

S1a. Does a health problem, disability, or handicap currently keep you or anyone in your household from participating fully in work, school, housework, or other activities?

INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTION — IF "YES," ASK: Is that you, or is it someone else?

Yes, self.....(27(___ -1 } (GO TO Q.S1f)
Yes, someone else..... ___ -2

No..... ___ -3 } (ASK Q.S1b)
Not sure..... ___ -4

S1b. Have you, or has anyone in your household ever been limited in any way for a year or more because of a handicap, impairment or health problem?

INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTION — IF "YES," ASK: Is that you, or is it someone else?

Yes, self.....(28(___ -1 } (ASK Q.S1c)
Yes, someone else..... ___ -2

No..... ___ -3 } (GO TO Q.S1e)
Not sure..... ___ -4

CARD 1 854009

S1c. Are you (Is that person) limited in any way now, or was that in the past?

Limited now.....(29(___-1 (GO TO Q.S1f)

Limited in past.....___-2 } (GO TO Q.S1d)
Not sure.....___-3 }

S1d. Do you (Does that person) still have an impairment or health problem, or not?

No longer have impairment or health problem.....(30(___-1 (SCREEN OUT)

Still have impairment or health problem....___-2 } (GO TO Q.S1f)
Not sure/refused.....___-3 }

S1e. Is there anyone in your household, including yourself, who (READ EACH ITEM)?

	Yes, Self	Yes, Someone Else	No	Not Sure
1. Has any learning disability of any kind	(31(___-1	___-2	___-3	___-4
2. Has any emotional or mental disability or condition	(32(___-1	___-2	___-3	___-4
3. Has any physical handicap or disability	(33(___-1	___-2	___-3	___-4
4. Has any talking, hearing, or visual disability, except for ordinary eyeglasses	(34(___-1	___-2	___-3	___-4
5. Considers themself a disabled or handicapped person, or not	(35(___-1	___-2	___-3	___-4
6. Most other people would consider a disabled or handicapped person, or not	(36(___-1	___-2	___-3	___-4

INTERVIEWER: AS SOON AS PERSON SAYS "YES" TO ANY, GO TO Q.S1f.

INTERVIEWER: IF "NO" TO ALL, SCREEN OUT. GO TO Q.S1g.

INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTION: ASK Q.S1f OF ALL WHO SAY "YES" THEY ARE LIMITED OR HAVE SOME SORT OF DISABILITY. IF AGE 16 OR OVER, SCREEN IN. GET FIRST NAME OR HOUSEHOLD POSITION AND CONVENIENT TIME TO CALL BACK FOR INTERVIEW. IF UNDER AGE 16, SCREEN OUT. GIVE THE S.O. TO SUPERVISOR.

S1f. Are you (Is that person) age 16 or over, or under age 16?

Age 16 or over.....(37(___-1 (SCREEN IN AND READ INSTRUCTIONS FROM BOX ABOVE Q.S1a)

Under age 16.....___-2 (SCREEN OUT)

Not sure/refused.....___-3 (SCREEN IN AND READ INSTRUCTIONS FROM BOX ABOVE Q.S1a)

Definition of Disability

As the screening questions show, the survey employed a broad definition of disability, which incorporated aspects of the two major approaches used in most existing surveys, but also included other criteria.

One of the two most common approaches is the health conditions approach, which the National Center for Health Statistics uses in its Health Interview Survey. The health conditions approach defines disability as the existence of any health condition or limitation which interferes with a person's normal activities. The work disability approach is the other major approach used in most existing surveys. It defines disability as the existence of a condition which prevents a person from working, or limits their ability to work. The Bureau of the Census employs this approach.

The ICD Survey of Disabled Americans employed the following definitional criteria:

-- A person was defined as disabled if he or she had a disability or health problem that prevented him or her from participating fully in work, school, or other activities.

-- A person was defined as disabled if he or she said that he or she had a physical disability, seeing, hearing, or speaking impairment, an emotional or mental disability, or a learning disability.

-- A person was defined as disabled if he or she considered himself or herself to be a disabled person, or if he or she said that other people would consider him or her disabled.

Sampling Procedures

The sampling procedure for the screening utilized Harris' standard methodology for national telephone cross-sections.

Harris telephone surveys are based on a national sample of the adult civilian population of the United States. Those living in Alaska and Hawaii are not represented, nor are those in prisons, hospitals, or religious and educational institutions, unless such individuals have their own outside phone line. Samples are based on the Census Bureau's adult population figures for each state in the country. These figures are updated by intercensal estimates produced annually by the Census Bureau, and sample locations are selected biennially to reflect changes in the country's demographic and geographic profile.

National samples are stratified on two dimensions -- geographic region (4 strata) and metropolitan versus nonmetropolitan residence (3 strata). Stratification ensures that the sample will reflect, within 1%, those living in different regions of the country and those living in SMSA's and non-SMSA's. Within each stratum, the selection of the primary sampling unit (PSU) is achieved through multistage, unclustered sampling. Each PSU yields one completed screen. First states, then counties, and then minor civil divisions are selected, with probability of selection proportionate to Census Bureau estimates of their respective populations.

Within primary sampling units Louis Harris and Associates employs a random-digit-dialing procedure to select households. Random digit dialing is a significant improvement over previously used techniques, extending the potential coverage rate to almost 95% of the U.S. population. The use of a random-digit-dialing method offers other important advantages:

-- The sample is highly representative.

-- Unlisted telephone numbers have the same probability of inclusion in the sample as listed numbers. This is particularly important in reaching both high income and minority populations.

-- Respondents are geographically dispersed, rather than clustered.

At the final stage of selection, telephone numbers for each PSU are randomly selected from the updated Harris library of telephone directories. The selected numbers are then altered by dropping the last two digits (or occasionally the last digit in rural areas) and replacing them with randomly selected two-digit numbers. As many randomly selected two-digit numbers as needed are successively appended until a working residential number is reached or until a screen is completed in each PSU. This method allows for a wider dispersion of households within a PSU while minimizing the effect of non-residential or non-working telephone exchanges and working banks. Technically, this method of sampling produces an epsem sample of all published banks.

In order to maintain reliability and integrity in the screening, the telephone field staff follows these procedures when a respondent contact is attempted:

— A nonanswering telephone is dialed three more times over a three-day period. At the end of this time, if no contact is made, a new telephone number is generated for that PSU.

— If a business telephone is reached or if contact is made with a household in which a potential respondent presents a language barrier, or a telephone is not in service, a new telephone number is generated for that PSU.

Incidence Encountered During Screening

The screening effort yielded 2,228 households which passed the screen; that is, households in which the person answering the screening questions identified either himself or herself, or someone else living in the household, as meeting one of the definitional criteria for disability described earlier. Each household in which someone passed the screen was told that the designated respondent would be called back at a later time, to conduct the actual inter-

view. If the designated respondent was unable to conduct the interview, a proxy interview was arranged with the person in the household who knew most about the designated respondent.

Table A-1 shows the total number of households contacted -- either screened-in or screened out -- during the full screening effort of 10 separate national samples. The overall incidence of disability (screen-ins divided by total households screened) was initially found to be 17.8% of all Americans aged 16 and over, who live in telephone households.

However, when those who screened-in were called back for the full interview, and the screening questions were asked again of the designated respondent or proxy, an additional 318 potential respondents screened-out. Thus, we found it necessary to adjust the initial incidence figure downward by subtracting these 318 cases from the 2,228 who initially screened-in. As a result, we found the adjusted overall incidence, after callbacks, to be 15.2% of Americans, aged 16 and over, who live in telephone households. This would place the number of disabled Americans aged 16 and over at between 27 million and 28 million persons.

For eight of the 10 separate national samples contacted during the screening phase, a count was also kept of screen-ins for Americans under age 16. The overall incidence for Americans under age 16 was found to be 1.5%. That would place the number of disabled Americans under age 16, who live in telephone households, at about 3 million. (However, had we called back those households which screened-in, as we did for respondents age 16 or over, the overall incidence of disabled children might also have dropped slightly, as it did for adults.

Table A-1

INCIDENCE ENCOUNTERED DURING SCREENING
OF 12,500 AMERICANS NATIONWIDE

	Via 10 Standalone National Cross-Section Samples	Initial Screening Incidence Before Callback %	Adjusted Incidence After Callback* %
Number of households initially screened in	2,228	17.8	15.2
Number of households initially screened out	10,306	88.2	84.8
TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS SCREENED FOR DISABILITY	12,534	100	100

*Adjusted incidence subtracts 318 persons who were found, upon callback for the full interviewer, not to meet any of the definitional criteria used in the survey.

Total Numbers Called and Response Rate for the Screening Phase

Table A-2 shows the disposition of all telephone numbers called during the screening phase of the survey. Harris interviewers called 37,176 telephone numbers, in order to complete screening questions with 12,534 households. Thus, it took about three telephone numbers in order to get a completed-screen.

Table A-2 also includes the standard formula for calculating the response rate for a survey. By this formula, the response rate was 79% among households reached, while the nonresponse rate was 21% among households reached. This represents a strong response rate for the screening phase of the survey. However, there are many different ways to compute response rates. Alternate formulas usually add additional categories to the denominator, on the assumption that these additional categories often represent refusals in disguise. The disposition of all numbers called during the screening phase gives figures which allow interested readers to compute response rates themselves, using either the above formula or other available formulas.

Table A-2

DISPOSITION OF ALL TELEPHONE NUMBERS CALLED DURING THE SCREENING PHASE OF THE ICD SURVEY OF DISABLED AMERIICANS

Screen-ins	2,228
Screen-outs	10,306
Reached but Not Screened	
Respondent refused altogether	3,130
Respondent terminated interview once begun	156
Callbacks Incomplete	
Callback agreed to, but respondent could not complete it by the end of field period	1,509
No Reachable Respondent	
Never any answer	6,531
Always busy	754
Phone number not in service	9,319
Phone number is a business	2,263
Unavailable due to language; no English-speaker in household	376
Unavailable due to health	244
Unavailable during duration of the field period	210
Ineligible -- no respondent of eligible age in household	37
Miscellaneous	
Duplicate number, etc.	113
TOTAL OF TELEPHONE NUMBERS CALLED DURING SCREENING PHASE	37,176

STANDARD FORMULA FOR CALCULATION OF RESPONSE RATE:

$$\frac{\text{Completed screen-ins and screen-outs}}{\text{Completed screen-ins and Screen-outs + Refusals + Terminations}} =$$

$$\frac{12,534}{12,534 + 3,130 + 156} = 79\%$$

Response rate = 79% of eligible households reached.

Nonresponse rate = 21% of eligible households reached.

Interview Procedures and Response Rates During the Interviewing Phase

In order to attain the highest possible response rates within reasonable cost constraints, callbacks for the full interview were made according to the following guidelines:

No Answer/Not-at-Homes: An initial call and then three callbacks to reach the designated respondents. Callbacks are made on different nights and at different times of the night. After the fourth call, the respondent is replaced by another screened-in person.

Refusals: One callback to try to convert any designated respondent who has refused or terminated an interview. If after the conversion attempt the designated respondent still declines the interview, another screened-in person is selected.

Unavailable Respondent: An initial call and three callbacks to reach the designated respondent. If after the fourth call the respondent is still not available for the interview, another screened-in person is selected.

Busy Signals: An initial call, a followup fifteen minutes later, and three callbacks to reach the designated respondent. Callbacks are made on different nights and at different times of the night. If the telephone is still busy after the last call, a new screened-in person is selected.

A total of 1,000 interviews were completed, which averaged 32 minutes in length. Eight-hundred-twenty-eight of these interviews were completed with designated respondents, and 172 interviews were completed with proxies. The response rate to the interviewing phase of the survey was 75% of eligible respondents reached as calculated by the formula below. The non-response rate was 25% of eligible respondents reached.

STANDARD FORMULA FOR CALCULATION OF RESPONSE RATE:

$$\frac{\text{Completions}}{\text{Completions + Refusals + Terminations}} = \frac{1,000}{1,325} = 75\%$$

However, alternate response rates can also be computed, usually by adding additional categories to the denominator. The assumption is that these additional categories often represent refusals in disguise.

Table A-3 presents the disposition of all of the 2,228 people who were initially screened-in during the screening phase of the project.

Interested readers can thus calculate for themselves the response rate according to the above formula or other available formulas.

Table A-3

DISPOSITION OF ALL SCREEN-INS DURING
THE INTERVIEWING PHASE OF THE ICD SURVEY OF DISABLED AMERICANS

	1,000
Completed Interviews	
Respondent interviewed	828
Proxy interviewed	172
Screen-outs (did not pass screen upon callback)	318
Reached but Not Completed	
Respondent refused altogether	263
Respondent terminated interview once begun	62
Callbacks Incomplete	
Callback agreed to, but respondent could not complete it by the end of field period	93
Quota Out	
Excess screen-ins from first phase, mainly those over age 55 left over after target reached toward end of field period	204
No Reachable Respondent	
Never any answer	28
Always busy	5
Phone number not in service	27
Phone number is a business	10
Unavailable due to language; no English-speaker in household	9
Respondent reported to be unavailable due to health	63
Everyone reported to be unavailable during duration of the field period	59
Ineligible -- no such respondent in household	35
Ineligible -- no one of age in household	3
Miscellaneous	
Duplicate numbers, wrong numbers, etc.	49
TOTAL OF SCREEN-INS	2,228

Proxy Interviews

Proxy interviews were conducted when a designated respondent was unable to conduct an interview. Proxies were defined as the person living in the designated respondent's household who knew most about the designated respondent. About 17% of the completed interviews were conducted with proxies.

Proxies were asked all questions in the survey, including attitudinal questions. Results of the proxy interviews were then compared with results from the designated respondent interviews. Overall differences in the results for the two groups proved to be insignificant. We were thus able to merge the two sets of results into a single data set of 1,000 interviews. Had the results proved to be significantly different, it would have been essential to keep separate the results of proxy and designated respondent interviews.

Weighting

Disabled people under age 55 were deliberately oversampled, in order to insure that enough working-age disabled people were included in the sample. Forty-nine percent of the completed interviews were with people under age 55, and 51% of the interviews were with people over age 55.

The data were then weighted to bring down the number under age 55, to match the proportion of disabled adults under age 55 in the 1982 Health Interview Survey, conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics. The final weighted figures for the ICD Survey of Disabled Americans are 41% under age 55, and 59% over age 55.

It should be noted that the HIS uses a slightly different definition of disability than the one used in this survey. The definition of disability used in this ICD survey is quite similar to the HIS definition of disability

because it incorporates many aspects of the health conditions approach used by HIS. But the ICD survey also included other definitional criteria not used in the HIS survey, which result in slightly broader definition of disability. The HIS data were the best available universe for weighting this survey data.

Sampling Error

The results achieved from all sample surveys are subject to sampling error. Sampling error is defined as the difference between the results obtained from the sample and those that would have been obtained had the entire relevant population been surveyed. The size of the sampling error varies both with the size of the sample and with the percentage giving a particular answer. Table A-4 table sets forth the range of error in samples of different sizes at different percentages of response:

Table A-4
RECOMMENDED ALLOWANCE FOR
SAMPLING ERROR OF PROPORTIONS
(PLUS OR MINUS)

Sampling Tolerance (at 95% Confidence Level)
To Use in Evaluating Any Individual Percentage Result

Approximate Sample Size of Any Group Asked Question on Which Survey Result Is Based	Approximate Magnitude of Results				
	Survey Percentage Result at 10% or 90%	Survey Percentage Result at 20% or 80%	Survey Percentage Result at 30% or 70%	Survey Percentage Result at 40% or 60%	Survey Percentage Result at 50%
1,000	2	2	3	3	3
500	3	4	4	4	4
300	3	5	5	6	6
200	4	6	6	7	7
100	6	8	9	10	10
50	8	11	13	14	14

For example, if the response for a sample size of 1,000 is 30%, in 95 cases out of 100 the response in the total population would be between 27% and 33%.

Significance of Difference Between Proportions

The difference between the percentage responses given by two independent samples to the same question may or may not be significant. To determine whether or not such a difference is indeed significant, the size of the samples involved and the percentage giving each response must be taken into account. Table A-5 shows the margin of error that must be allowed for different sample sizes at different percentages of response:

Table A-5

SAMPLING ERROR OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PROPORTIONS

Sampling Tolerances (at 95% Confidence Level)
to Use in Evaluating Differences Between Two Percentage Results

Approximate Sample Size of Two Groups Asked Question on Which Survey Results Are Based	Approximate Magnitude of Results				
	Survey Percentage Results at 10% or 90%	Survey Percentage Results at 20% or 80%	Survey Percentage Results at 30% or 70%	Survey Percentage Results at 40% or 60%	Survey Percentage Results at 50%
1,000 vs. 1,0000	3	4	4	4	4
500	3	4	5	5	5
300	4	5	6	6	6
200	5	6	7	7	8
100	6	8	9	10	10
50	9	11	13	14	14
500 vs. 500	4	4	6	6	6
300	4	6	7	7	7
200	6	7	8	8	8
100	7	9	10	11	11
50	9	12	13	14	15
300 vs. 300	5	6	7	8	8
200	5	7	8	9	9
100	7	9	10	11	11
50	9	12	14	15	15
200 vs. 200	6	8	9	10	10
100	7	10	11	12	12
50	9	12	14	15	15
100 vs. 100	8	11	13	14	14
50	10	14	16	17	17
50 vs. 50	12	16	18	19	20

For example, suppose one group of size 500 has a response of 35% "yes" for a question, and an independent group of size 200 has a response of 26% "yes" for the same question, for a difference of 9 percentage points. According to the table, this difference is subject to a potential sampling error of plus or minus 8 percentage points. Since the observed difference is greater than the potential sampling error, the observed difference is significant. Moreover, if the entire population were interviewed, the difference would be from 1 to 17 percentage points (the 9-point observed difference plus or minus the 8-point potential sampling error) in 95 cases out of 100.

The recommended allowances for significance of difference were calculated based on a simple random sample.

Sampling error is only one way in which survey findings may vary from the findings that would result from interviewing every adult member of the relevant population. Survey research is susceptible to human and mechanical errors as well, such as interviewer recording and data handling errors. However, the procedures used by the Harris firm keep errors of this kind to a minimum.

QUESTIONNAIRE

LOUIS HARRIS AND ASSOCIATES, INC.
630 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10111

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Questionnaire No.:_____ 5-6-7-8

Study No. 854009

Time Started:_____ A.M./P.M.

November 1985

Sample Point No.| | | | | | | | | 10-11-12-13-14-15-16

Interviewer:_____ I.D. No.:_____ Date:_____

Area Code:_____ Telephone No.:_____ (17-26)

Hello, I'm _____from Louis Harris and Associates, the national research firm in New York. We're conducting a nationwide survey about health care issues, and would like to speak to someone in your household. Are you 16 years old or over?

INTERVIEWER: IF "YES" TO A SCREEN QUESTION ON LIMITATION OR DISABILITIES, AND AGE 16 OR OVER, SCREEN IN.

IF RESPONDENT IS ON PHONE, ASK FOR FIRST NAME AND EXPLAIN THAT SOMEONE WILL CALL THEM SOON TO CONDUCT THE INTERVIEW. THANK THEM.

IF "SOMEONE ELSE," ASK FIRST NAME OF THAT PERSON AND WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE ABLE TO BE INTERVIEWED. IF NOT ABLE, ASK FOR FIRST NAME OF PROXY WHO KNOWS MOST ABOUT THAT PERSON.

TELL PERSON ON PHONE THAT SOMEONE WILL BE CALLING THE RESPONDENT OR THE PROXY SOON TO CONDUCT THE INTERVIEW, AND THANK THEM FOR THEIR HELP.

IF MORE THAN ONE DISABLED PERSON IN HOUSEHOLD, FOLLOW SELECTION PROCEDURE.

S1a. Does a health problem, disability, or handicap currently keep you or anyone in your household from participating fully in work, school, housework, or other activities?

INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTION — IF "YES," ASK: Is that you, or is it someone else?

Yes, self.....(27(____-1 } (GO TO Q.S1f)
Yes, someone else.....____-2

No.....____-3 } (ASK Q.S1b)
Not sure.....____-4

S1b. Have you, or has anyone in your household ever been limited in any way for a year or more because of a handicap, impairment or health problem?

INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTION -- IF "YES," ASK: Is that you, or is it someone else?

Yes, self.....(28(____-1 } (ASK Q.S1c)
Yes, someone else.....____-2

No.....____-3 } (GO TO Q.S1e)
Not sure.....____-4

S1c. Are you (Is that person) limited in any way now, or was that in the past?

Limited now.....(29(___-1 (GO TO Q.S1f)

Limited in past.....___-2 } (GO TO Q.S1d)
Not sure.....___-3 }

S1d. Do you (Does that person) still have an impairment or health problem, or not?

No longer have impairment or health problem.....(30(___-1 (SCREEN OUT)

Still have impairment or health problem....___-2 } (GO TO Q.S1f)
Not sure/refused.....___-3 }

S1e. Is there anyone in your household, including yourself, who (READ EACH ITEM)?

	Yes, Self	Yes, Someone Else	No	Not Sure
1. Has any learning disability of any kind.....(31(	___-1	___-2	___-3	___-4
2. Has any emotional or mental disability or condition.....(32(	___-1	___-2	___-3	___-4
3. Has any physical handicap or disability.....(33(	___-1	___-2	___-3	___-4
4. Has any talking, hearing, or visual disability, except for ordinary eyeglasses.....(34(	___-1	___-2	___-3	___-4
5. Considers themself a disabled or handicapped person, or not.....(35(	___-1	___-2	___-3	___-4
6. Most other people would consider a disabled or handicapped person, or not.....(36(	___-1	___-2	___-3	___-4

INTERVIEWER: AS SOON AS PERSON SAYS "YES" TO ANY, GO TO Q.S1f.

INTERVIEWER: IF "NO" TO ALL, SCREEN OUT. GO TO Q.S1g.

INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTION: ASK Q.S1f OF ALL WHO SAY "YES" THEY ARE LIMITED OR HAVE SOME SORT OF DISABILITY. IF AGE 16 OR OVER, SCREEN IN. GET FIRST NAME OR HOUSEHOLD POSITION AND CONVENIENT TIME TO CALL BACK FOR INTERVIEW. IF UNDER AGE 16, SCREEN OUT. GIVE THE S.O. TO SUPERVISOR.

S1f. Are you (Is that person) age 16 or over, or under age 16?

Age 16 or over.....(37(___-1 (SCREEN IN AND READ INSTRUCTIONS FROM BOX ABOVE Q.S1a)

Under age 16.....___-2 (SCREEN OUT)

Not sure/refused.....___-3 (SCREEN IN AND READ INSTRUCTIONS FROM BOX ABOVE Q.S1a)

[REREAD INTRODUCTION AND ASK FOR RESPONDENT OR PROXY BY NAME. IF UNAVAILABLE, ARRANGE CALLBACK.]

Louis Harris and Associates called your household recently and asked you or someone else in your household a few general questions about your healthcare. We're doing a nationwide survey about healthcare issues. I'd like to begin by asking a few questions which you may have answered when we first called your household. If so, please answer them again for confirmation.

1. Does a health problem, handicap or disability now keep you from participating fully in school, work, housework, or other activities?

Yes.....(38(___-1 (SKIP TO Q.3b)

No..... ___-2 } (ASK Q.2a)
Not sure/refused.... ___-3 }

2a. Have you ever been limited in any way in your activities for a year or more because of a handicap, disability, or health problem?

[IF YES, ASK:] Are you limited in any way now or was that in the past?

Yes, limited now.....(39(___-1 (SKIP TO Q.3b)

Yes, limited in past..... ___-2 (ASK Q.2b)

No..... ___-3 } (SKIP TO Q.3a)
Not sure/refused..... ___-4 }

2b. Do you still have a disability or health problem, or not?

No longer have disability or health problem.... _____ (SCREEN OUT)

Still have disability or health problem.....(40(___-1 (ASK Q.3b)

Not sure/refused..... ___-2 (SCREEN OUT)

3a. Do you (READ EACH ITEM)?

	Yes	No	Not Sure
1. Have any learning disability of any kind, or not.....	(41(___-1	___-2	___-3
2. Have an emotional or mental disability, or developmental disability, or not.....	(42(___-1	___-2	___-3
3. Have a physical disability or handicap, or not.....	(43(___-1	___-2	___-3
4. Have any talking, hearing, or visual disability, except for ordinary eyeglasses, or not.....	(44(___-1	___-2	___-3

[IF YES TO ANY, GO TO Q.3b]

[IF NO TO ALL, SCREEN OUT]

3b. What is the medical diagnosis or description for your disability or health condition? [PROBE FOR CLEAR ANSWERS. RECORD UP TO FOUR.]

[PROBE:] Please tell me the medical diagnosis or description of any other disabilities or health conditions which you may have.

[IF MORE THAN ONE, ASK Q.3c. SKIP OTHERS TO Q.4a.]

3c. Which of these limits you the most?

[INTERVIEWER: PLACE "X" IN CODE FOR MOST LIMITING CONDITION]

		Q.3c Most Limiting
_____	(45-46)	(53(___ -1
_____	(47-48)	___ -2
_____	(49-50)	___ -3
_____	(51-52)	___ -4
	Not sure.....	___ -5

[INTERVIEWER: TELL RESPONDENT THAT ALL QUESTIONS IN THE REST OF THE SURVEY REFER TO THE DISABILITY OR HEALTH PROBLEM THAT LIMITS THEM MOST.]

4a. When did your handicap, disability, or health problem begin -- at birth, during childhood (age 0-11), during adolescence (age 12-19), when you were a young adult (age 20-39, at middle age (40-55), or did it begin after age 55?

At birth.....(54(___-1
During childhood.....___-2 } (ASK Q.4b)
During adolescence.....___-3

Young adult.....___-4
Middle age.....___-5 } (GO TO Q.5)
Began after age 55.....___-6
Not sure/refused.....___-7

4b. Do you, or did you ever attend a special school or special classes for students with disabilities, or not?

Yes, attend(ed).....(55(___-1 (ASK Q.4c)

No, did not.....___-2 } (GO TO Q.4d
Not sure/refused.....___-3

4c. Do you feel that by attending a special school or special classes you missed most of the opportunities, some of the opportunities, only a few of the opportunities, or practically none of the opportunities available to all other students?

Missed most opportunities.....(56(___-1
Missed some opportunities.....___-2
Missed only a few opportunities...___-3
Missed none of the opportunities..___-4
No sure/refused.....___-5

4d. In general, do you feel that your disability or health problem has caused you to miss most of the opportunities, some of the opportunities, only a few of the opportunities, or practically none of the opportunities available to all other students?

Missed most opportunities.....(57(___-1
Missed some opportunities.....___-2
Missed only a few opportunities...___-3
Missed none of the opportunities..___-4
No sure/refused.....___-5

5. And how old are you now? |RECORD|

| | |
(58-59)

Not sure.....(60(___-1
Refused.....___-2

6. Would you describe your handicap, disability or health problem as slight, moderate, somewhat severe, or very severe?

Slight.....(61(___-1
Moderate.....___-2
Somewhat severe.....___-3
Very severe.....___-4
Not sure/refused.....___-5

7a. How much does your disability or health problem limit your activities? Does (READ EACH ITEM)?

[NOTE: AS SOON AS "YES" IS GIVEN FOR Q.7a, ITEM 1, 2, OR 3, GO DIRECTLY TO Q.7b]

	Yes	No	Not Sure/ Refused
1. It prevent you completely from working, or going to school, or taking care of the house, or not....	(62(___-1	___-2	___-3
2. It limit you in the amount or type of work, school, housework which you can do, or not.....	(63(___-1	___-2	___-3
3. It limit you in other activities, such as sports, social and community life, or family life, or not.	(64(___-1	___-2	___-3
4. Your disability or health problem limit your activities in any way.....	(65(___-1	___-2	___-3

[IF "NO" TO Q.7a 4, GO TO Q.9]

7b. When did your disability or health problem begin to limit your activites -- at birth, during childhood (age 0-11), during adolescence (age 12-19), when you were a young adult (age 20-39), at middle age (age 40-55), or did it begin to limit you after age 55?

At birth.....(66(___-1
During childhood..... ___-2
During adolescence..... ___-3
Young adult..... ___-4
Middle age..... ___-5
Began after age 55..... ___-6
Not sure/refused..... ___-7

[ASK Q.8a AND Q.8b ACROSS FOR EACH ITEM]

8a. When (READ EACH ITEM), do you regularly use any special equipment to help yourself or not?

8b. Do you need help from another person when (READ EACH ITEM) or not?

	Q.8a Help From Equipment			Q.8b Help From a Person		
	Yes	No	Not Sure/ Refused	Yes	No	Not Sure/ Refused
1. Walking or going outside...	(67(___-1	___-2	___-3	(*10(___-1	___-2	___-3
2. Bathing, getting dressed, or using the toilet.....	(68(___-1	___-2	___-3	(11(___-1	___-2	___-3
3. Getting in or out of bed...	(69(___-1	___-2	___-3	(12(___-1	___-2	___-3
4. Eating.....	(70(___-1	___-2	___-3	(13(___-1	___-2	___-3
5. Shopping, doing household chores or preparing meals..	(71(___-1	___-2	___-3	(14(___-1	___-2	___-3
6. Talking with other people..	(72(___-1	___-2	___-3	(15(___-1	___-2	___-3
7. Using the telephone.....	(73(___-1	___-2	___-3	(16(___-1	___-2	___-3
8. Reading directions about how to use something.....	(74(___-1	___-2	___-3	(17(___-1	___-2	___-3

[75-80Z]

[INTERVIEWER NOTE: IF "YES, NEEDS HELP FROM ANOTHER PERSON" IN ANY Q.8b ITEM, ASK Q.8c. SKIP OTHERS TO Q.9.]

8c. Most of the time when someone helps you, is it a friend or relative, or a nurse or personal care attendent?

Friend or relative.....(18(___-1
Nurse/personal care attendent...___-2
Not sure/refused.....___-3

9 How satisfied are you with life in general -- very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, very dissatisfied?

Very satisfied.....(19(___-1
Somewhat satisfied.....___-2
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.....___-3
Somewhat dissatisfied.....___-4
Very dissatisfied.....___-5
Not sure/refused.....___-6

10. Do you (READ EACH ITEM)?

	Yes	No	Not Sure/ Refused
1. Consider yourself a disabled or handicapped person, or not.....(20(	___-1	___-2	___-3
2. Think most other people would consider you a disabled or handicapped person when they first meet you, or not.....(21(	___-1	___-2	___-3
3. Think most people who get to know you fairly well consider you a disabled or handicapped person, or not.....(22(	___-1	___-2	___-3

11. How would you describe the way people generally react toward you after they learn that you have a disability, handicap, or health problem -- do they treat you as an equal, or act as if they feel sorry for you, or do they shy away from further contact with you, or don't any of these describe your experiences with people in general?

Treated as equal.....(23(___-1
Act as if sorry for you.....___-2
Shy away from further contact.....___-3
None of these describe general experiences....___-4
All of these describe experiences (vol.).....___-5
Not sure/refused.....___-6

12. To what extent do you feel that you have a sense of common identity with other disabled people -- do you feel that you have no sense of common identity, some sense of common identity, a somewhat strong sense of common identity, or a very strong sense of common identity?

No sense of common identity...(24(____-1
Some sense.....____-2
Somewhat strong sense.....____-3
Very strong sense.....____-4
Not sure/refused.....____-5

13. How do you think things have changed in general for disabled Americans in the past 10 years -- have they gotten much better, somewhat better, somewhat worse, much worse, or haven't they changed at all in the past 10 years?

Much better.....(25(____-1
Somewhat better.....____-2
Somewhat worse.....____-3
Much worse.....____-4
No change at all.....____-5
It depends (vol.).....____-6
Not sure/refused.....____-7

14a. Do you feel that disabled persons are a minority group in the same sense as are blacks and Hispanics, or not?

Disabled are a minority group.....(26(____-1
Are not a minority group.....____-2
Not sure/refused.....____-3

14b. Do you think that the civil rights laws that cover minorities against discrimination should also cover disabled persons, or not?

Should be covered against discrimination...(27(____-1
Should not be covered.....____-2
Not sure/refused.....____-3

14c. Since the late 1960's, the federal government has passed laws to give better opportunities to disabled and handicapped Americans. How much do you think these laws have helped disabled Americans -- have they helped a great deal, somewhat, not too much, or hardly helped at all?

Helped a great deal.....(28(____-1
Helped somwhat.....____-2
Not too much.....____-3
Hardly helped at all.....____-4
Not sure/refused.....____-5

15a. In 1973, the federal government passed the Rehabilitation Act. One section of that act, Section 504, prohibits any program, business or activity that gets federal money from discriminating against people who have handicaps. Before this interview, how familiar would you say you were with this law -- very familiar, somewhat familiar, not too familiar, or not familiar at all?

Very familiar.....(29(____-1
Somewhat familiar.....____-2
Not too familiar.....____3
Not familiar at all.....____-4
Not sure/refused.....____-5

15b. I will read you some proposals which have been made on how society should be involved with disabled Americans. Please say for each one whether you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove (READ EACH ITEM).

[DO NOT ROTATE]	Strongly Approve	Somewhat Approve	Somewhat Dis-approve	Strongly Dis-approve	Not Sure
1. There should be increased efforts by society for education, job training, and rehabilitation for disabled people, so they can work to support themselves instead of depending on the government.....(30(	____-1	____-2	____-3	____-4	____-5
2. There should be increased government and private benefits for disabled people who cannot work, so that they can live comfortably without working.(31(	____-1	____-2	____-3	____-4	____-5
3. There should be less government and private spending and benefits for disabled people who can work but don't, because they should work to support themselves.....(32(	____-1	____-2	____-3	____-4	____-5
4. There should be increased efforts by society for disabled people to have special equipment and devices in offices and factories, so they can work better and communicate with other workers more easily.....(33(	____-1	____-2	____-3	____-4	____-5
5. Society should take better care of all disabled people, so they aren't forced to go out and work.....(34(	____-1	____-2	____-3	____-4	____-5

16. Do you think that most public schools that you know about do or do not have enough special services to allow students with disabilities to participate fully in school activities?

Schools have enough services.....(35(____-1
Schools do not have enough services....____-2
Not sure/refused.....____-3

17. Does your disability prevent you in any way from getting around, attending cultural or sports events, or socializing with friends outside your home as much as you would like to, or not?

Yes, prevents.....(36(____-1 (ASK Q.18a)

No, does not prevent.....____-2 } (SKIP TO Q.19)
Not sure/refused.....____-3

18a. Here are some reasons why people don't get around, attend events, or socialize with friends outside their homes as much as they want to. Please say if each is an important reason or is not an important reasons why you don't get around, socialize, or attend events as much as you would like to.
[READ EACH ITEM] [ASK:] Is that an important reason for you, or not?

18b. What is the most important reason why you don't get around, attend cultural or sports events, or socialize with friends as much as you would like to?

CHECK APPROPRIATE RESPONSE IF RESPONDENT'S ANSWER FITS ANY IN ITEMS a-f. IF RESPONDENT VOLUNTEERS DIFFERENT ANSWER, RECORD BELOW AT "8" PUNCH.

	Q.18a			Q.18b
	Important Reason	Not Important Reason	Not Sure	Most Important Reason
a. Because you are not able to use public transportation or because you can't get special transportation or someone to give you a ride when you need one.....	(37(___ -1	___ -2	___ -3	(43(___ -1
b. Because you come across many public buildings and places that you can't get into or that have bathrooms which you can't use.....	(38(___ -1	___ -2	___ -3	___ -2
c. Because you have difficulty in seeing, talking, or hearing.....	(39(___ -1	___ -2	___ -3	___ -3
d. Because you need someone to go with you or help you but don't always have someone.....	(40(___ -1	___ -2	___ -3	___ -4
e. Because of fear that your disability or health problem might cause you to get hurt, sick, or victimized by crime.	(41(___ -1	___ -2	___ -3	___ -5
f. Because you are self-conscious about your disability.....	(42(___ -1	___ -2	___ -3	___ -6

Not sure/can't say which is the most important reason..... ___ -7

Other reason most important (vol.) (RECORD)..... ___ -8

(44(

19. About how often do you (READ EACH ITEM)?

	More Than Twice a Week	Twice a Week	Once a Week	2-3 Times a Week	Once a Month	Less Than Once a Month	Never	Not Sure/ Refused
1. Socialize with close friends, relatives, or neighbors.....(45(	___-1	___-2	___-3	___-4	___-5	___-6	___-7	___-8
2. Visit a supermarket or food store.....(46(	___-1	___-2	___-3	___-4	___-5	___-6	___-7	___-8
3. Go to a restaurant.....(47(	___-1	___-2	___-3	___-4	___-5	___-6	___-7	___-8
4. Go to church or synogogue.....(48(	___-1	___-2	___-3	___-4	___-5	___-6	___-7	___-8

20. Are you very active, somewhat active, or not active in any community group such as a religious group, volunteer group, or recreation group?

Very active.....(49(___-1
Somewhat active..... ___-2

Not active..... ___-3
Not sure..... ___-4
Refused..... ___-5

21. Have you ever participated in any group or organized activity on behalf of people with disablities, or not?

Have participated.....(50(___-1
Have not participated..... ___-2
Not sure/refused..... ___-3

22a. What about going to the movies and other cultural events or places. Approximately how many times did you (READ EACH ITEM) in the past 12 months?

	None	Once	2-3 Times	4-5 Times	6-10 Times	11-20 Times	More Than 20 Times	Not Sure
1. Go to the movies.....(51(	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6	-7	-8
2. Go to live theater performances.....(52(	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6	-7	-8
3. Go to live popular music performances...(53(	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6	-7	-8
4. Go to a sports event.(54(	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6	-7	-8

22b. Have you ever applied for a vocational rehabilitation program, or not?

Have applied.....(55(-1 (ASK Q.22c)

Have not applied..... -2 } (GO TO Q.23)
Not sure/refused..... -3 }

22c. Were you accepted into the program, or not?

Accepted.....(56(-1 (ASK Q.22d)

Not accepted..... -2 } (GO TO Q.23)
Not sure/refused..... -3 }

22d. Did you attend the program, or not?

Attended.....(57(-1 (ASK Q.22e)

Did not attend..... -2 } (GO TO Q.23)
Not sure/refused..... -3 }

22e. How much did the vocational rehabilitation help you to find a job -- did it help you a great deal, somewhat, not too much, or not at all?

Helped a great deal...(58(-1
Helped somewhat..... -2
Not too much..... -3
Not at all..... -4
Not sure/refused..... -5

23. Which of the following cateogries best describes your current employment situation: are you (READ LIST)?

a. Working full-time for an employer, a workshop, or yourself.....(59(___-1 (ASK Q.24)

b. Working part-time for an employer, a workshop, or yourself.....___-2 (GO TO Q.32a ON PAGE 17)

c. Unemployed but looking for work.....___-3 (GO TO Q.39a ON PAGE 22)

d. Unemployed and not looking for work.....___-4 (GO TO Q.49 ON PAGE 27)

e. Retired.....___-5 (GO TO Q.62 ON PAGE 33)

f. Completely unable to work because of disability or health problem.....___-6 (GO TO Q.75 ON PAGE 37)

g. Keeping house.....___-7 (GO TO Q.54 ON PAGE 29)

h. Full-time student, employment trainee, or participant in vocational rehabilitation.....___-8 (GO TO Q.69 ON PAGE 36)

i. Doing full or part-time volunteer service.....___-9 (GO TO Q.81a ON PAGE 41)

Refused.....___-0
Not sure/don't know.....(60(___-1 } (GO TO Q.87 ON PAGE 46)
No answer/interviwer error.....___-2

[IF WORKING FULL-TIME Q.24-Q31b]

24. How satisfied are you with your job -- the kind of work you do? Are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

Very satisfied.....(61(____-1
Somewhat satisfied.....____-2
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied...____-3
Somewhat dissatisfied.....____-4
Very satisfied.....____-5
Not sure/refused.....____-6

25. Do you feel that your work requires you to use your full talents or abilities, some of your talents or abilities, only a small amount of your talents and abilities, or practically none of them at all?

Requires full talents and abilities...(62(____-1
Some talents and abilities.....____-2
Only a small amount of them.....____-3
Practically none of them at all.....____-4
Not sure/refused.....____-5

26a. How long have you worked full-time without interruptions of a month or more, except for vacations? This includes all employers you may have worked for, and self-employment. [DO NOT READ LIST]

Six months or less.....(63(____-1 } (ASK Q.26b)
6 months to one year.....____-2 }

1 to 2 years.....____-3
2 to 3 years.....____-4
3 to 4 years.....____-5
4 to 5 years.....____-6 } (GO TO Q.27)
5 to 10 years.....____-7
10 to 20 years.....____-8
20 years or more.....____-9
Not sure/refused.....____-0

26b. What were you doing before that -- were you (READ LIST)

a. Working part-time.....(64(____-1
b. Laid-off or on strike.....____-2 } (GO TO Q.27)
c. Unemployed but looking for work.....____-3
d. Unemployed and not looking for work.....____-4

e. Unable to work because of your disability or health problem.....____-5 (ASK Q.26c)

f. Keeping house.....____-6
g. A full-time student.....____-7
h. In a vocational training program.....____-8
i. Or something else (SPECIFY): } (GO TO Q.27)

_____...____-9
Not sure/refused.....____-0

26c. What changed that enabled you to begin working full-time? Did you (READ LIST)?

	Yes	No	Not Sure/ Refused
a. Undergo vocational rehabilitation.....(65(	-1	-2	-3
b. Get medical treatment or therapy or enough rest to improve your disability or health problem.....(66(	-1	-2	-3
c. Get equipment or a device which you need in order to do your work, talk to other workers or get around at work.....(67(	-1	-2	-3
d. Get additional education or job skills which you didn't have before.....(68(	-1	-2	-3
e. Find an employer who gave you a chance to work full-time.....(69(	-1	-2	-3
f. Get an interpreter or personal care attendant.....(70(	-1	-2	-3

[IF NO TO ALL, ASK g]

g. Or were you able to begin work for some other reason (SPECIFY WHAT IT WAS):

_____

_____..(71(-1 -2 -3

27. How difficult was it for you to find full-time work -- very difficult, somewhat difficult, not too difficult, or not difficult at all?

Very difficult.....(72(-1
Somewhat difficult..... -2
Not too difficult..... -3
Not difficult at all..... -4
Not sure/refused..... -5

28. Has your employer made accommodations for your disability or health problem, or not?

Employer made accommodations.(73(-1
No accommodations made..... -2
Not sure/refused..... -3

29. If you didn't have a disability or health problem, do you think you would have a much better job, a somewhat better job, a somewhat worse job, a much worse job, or about the same job that you have now?

Much better job.....(74(____-1 } (ASK Q.30a)
Somewhat better job.....____-2 }

Somwewhat worse job.....____-3
Much worse job.....____-4
About the same job.....____-5 } (GO TO Q.30b)
Not sure/don't know/refused.....____-6 }

30a. Which has been more of an obstacle or barrier to your getting the kind of job you would like to have or feel you are capable of doing -- your actual disability or health problem or how employers react to your disability or health problem?

Disability/health problem more of a barrier.....(75(____-1
Employers' reaction more of a barrier.....____-2

Both equally significant barriers (vol.).....____-3
Lack of skills, education bigger barrier (vol.).....____-4
Bad economy bigger barrier (vol.).....____-5
Race/gender bigger barrier (vol.).....____-6
Lack of transporation bigger barrier (vol.).....____-7

Not sure/refused.....____-8

30b. Do you feel that you have ever encountered job discrimination because of your disability or health problem, or not?

Have encountered job discrimination...(76(____-1
Have not encountered.....____-2
Not sure/refused.....____-3

30c. Do you work in an office or other workplace outside your home, or do you work at home?

Work outside home...(77(____-1
Work at home.....____-2
Not sure/refused.....____-3

31a. What type of work do you do?

DESCRIBE JOB BRIEFLY:

Professional.....(78(____-1
Manager, official.....____-2
Proprietor (small business) or self-employed...____-3
Clerical worker.....____-4
Sales worker.....____-5
Skilled craftsman, foreman.....____-6
Operative, unskilled laborer (except farm).....____-7
Service worker.....____-8
Farmer, farm manager, farm laborer.....____-9
Military service.....____-0
Sheltered workshop.....(79(____-1
Other (SPECIFY):

_____.....____-2
Refused.....____-3
Not sure.....____-4
No answer/interviewer error.....____-5

31b. Would you prefer to work at home or would you rather work in an office, factory, or other workplace?

Would prefer to work at home.....(80(____-1
Would rather work in office, etc.....____-2
Not sure/refused.....____-3

GO TO Q.87

[IF WORKING PART-TIME Q32-Q38b]

32a. Would you prefer to have a full-time job now, or not?

Prefer full-time job.....(3*10(___-1 (ASK Q.32b)

Does not want full-time job.....___-2 } (GO TO Q.33a)
Not sure/refused.....___-3 }

32b. Please say if each of the following reasons is an important reason or not an important reason why you are not working full-time. (READ ITEM AND ASK: Is that an important reason for you, or not?)

	Important Reason	Not an Important Reason	Not Sure/ Refused
a. Because you think no full-time work is available in your line of work or you can't find it.....(11(	___-1	___-2	___-3
b. Because your disability or health problem severely limits what you can do.....(12(	___-1	___-2	___-3
c. Because you can't get affordable, convenient, or accessible transportation to and from work or housing near work.....(13(	___-1	___-2	___-3
d. Because you don't have the skills, education, or training needed to get full-time jobs.....(14(	___-1	___-2	___-3
e. Because you need medical treatment or therapy for your disability or health problem.....(15(	___-1	___-2	___-3
f. Because you need special equipment or devices to do your work, talk to or hear other workers, or get around at work.....(16(	___-1	___-2	___-3
g. Because you can't arrange childcare or have other family responsibilities.....(17(	___-1	___-2	___-3
h. Because employers won't recognize that you are capable of doing a full-time job due to your disability or health problem.....(18(	___-1	___-2	___-3
i. Because you haven't spent significant time looking for full-time work.....(19(	___-1	___-2	___-3
j. Because you would risk losing benefits or insurance payments.....(20(	___-1	___-2	___-3
k. Because you need someone to help you get around at work, or talk to other workers.....(21(	___-1	___-2	___-3

33a. Have you ever held a full-time job continuously for a year or more, or not?

Yes, had a job.....(22(____-1 (ASK Q.33b)

No, had no job.....____-2 } (GO TO Q.33d)
Not sure.....____-3 }

33b. Did you have a disability or health problem when you worked full-time, or not?

Yes, had disability/health problem...(23(____-1 (ASK 33c)

No, did not.....____-2 } (GO TO Q.33d)
Not sure/refused.....____-3 }

33c. When you worked full-time, was your disability or health problem slight, moderate, somewhat severe, or very severe?

Slight.....(24(____-1
Moderate.....____-2
Somewhat severe.....____-3
Very severe.....____-4
Not sure/refused.....____-5

33d. Has your current employer made accommodations for your disability or health problem, or not?

Employer made accommodations....(25(____-1
No accommodations made.....____-2
Not sure/refused.....____-3

34. How satisfied are you with your job -- the kind of work you do? Are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

Very satisfied.....(26(____-1
Somewhat satisfied.....____-2
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied..____-3
Somewhat dissatisfied.....____-4
Very dissatisfied.....____-5
Not sure/refused.....____-6

35a. Do you feel that your job requires you to use your full talents or abilities, some of your talents or abilities, only a small amount of your talents and abilities, or practically none of them at all?

Requires full talents and abilities..(27(____-1
Some talents and abilities.....____-2
Only a small amount of them.....____-3
Practically none of them at all.....____-4
Not sure/refused.....____-5

35b. Do you work in an office or other workplace outside your home, or do you work at home?

Work outside home.....(28(___ -1
Work at home..... ___ -2
Not sure/refused..... ___ -3

35c. What type of work do you do?

DESCRIBE JOB BRIEFLY:

Professional.....(29(___ -1
Manager, official..... ___ -2
Proprietor (small business) or self-employed... ___ -3
Clerical worker..... ___ -4
Sales worker..... ___ -5
Skilled craftsman, foreman..... ___ -6
Operative, unskilled laborer (except farm)..... ___ -7
Service worker..... ___ -8
Farmer, farm manager, farm laborer..... ___ -9
Military service..... ___ -0
Sheltered workshop.....(30(___ -1
Other (SPECIFY):

_____..... ___ -2
Refused..... ___ -3
Not sure..... ___ -4
No answer/interviewer error..... ___ -5

36. If you didn't have a disability or health problem, do you think you would have a much better job, a somewhat better job, a somewhat worse job, a much worse job, or about the same job that you have now?

Much better job.....(31(___ -1 } (ASK Q.37)
Somewhat better job..... ___ -2 }

Somwewhat worse job..... ___ -3 }
Much worse job..... ___ -4 }
About the same job..... ___ -5 } (GO TO Q.38a)
Not sure/don't know/refused..... ___ -6 }

37. Which has been more of an obstacle or barrier to your getting the kind of job you would like to have or feel you are capable of doing -- your actual disability or health problem or how employers react to your disability or health problem?

Disability/health problem more of a barrier.....(32(____-1
Employers' reaction more of a barrier.....____-2

Both equally significant barriers (vol.).....____-3
Lack of skills, education bigger barrier (vol.).....____-4
Bad economy bigger barrier (vol.).....____-5
Lack of transportation bigger barrier.....____-6
Race/gender bigger barrier (vol.).....____-7

Not sure/refused.....____-8

38a. Do you feel that you have ever encountered job discrimination because of your disability or health problem, or not?

Have encountered job discrimination..(33(____-1
Have not encountered.....____-2
Not sure/refused.....____-3

38b. If you were working full-time, would you lose any income, health care benefits, or other benefits which you now receive from private insurance or the government?

Would lose.....(34(____-1 (ASK Q.38c)

Would not lose.....____-2 } (GO TO Q.38d)
Not sure/refused.....____-3 }

38c. What income, benefits, or insurance payments would you lose? [READ EACH ITEM]

	Yes	No	Not Sure/ Refused
1. SSI, Supplemental Security Income (the gold check)..	(35(____-1	____-2	____-3
2. AFDC, Aid to Families with Dependent Children.....	(36(____-1	____-2	____-3
3. SSDI, Social Security disability (the green check)..	(37(____-1	____-2	____-3
4. Medicare.....	(38(____-1	____-2	____-3
5. Medicaid.....	(39(____-1	____-2	____-3
6. Veterans benefits.....	(40(____-1	____-2	____-3
7. Worker's compensation.....	(41(____-1	____-2	____-3
8. Disability insurance.....	(42(____-1	____-2	____-3
9. Unemployment insurance.....	(43(____-1	____-2	____-3
10. Lose other benefits (SPECIFY): _____	(44(____-1	____-2	____-3

38d. If you were working full-time, do you think your total income and benefits would be much higher, somewhat higher, somewhat lower, much lower, or about the same as your total income and benefits are now?

Much higher.....(45(____-1
Somewhat higher.....____-2
Somewhat lower.....____-3
Much lower.....____-4
About the same.....____-5
Not sure/refused.....____-6

38e. Would you prefer to work at home, or would you rather work in an office, factory, or other workplace?

Would prefer to work at home.....(46(____-1
Would rather work in office, etc.....____-2
Not sure/refused.....____-3

[GO TO Q.87]

[IF UNEMPLOYED BUT LOOKING FOR WORK Q.39a-Q48d]

39a. Have you actively looked for work in the past month, or not?

Yes, have looked in past month.....(47(____-1 (ASK Q.39b)

No, have not looked.....____-2
Not sure/refused.....____-3 } (GO TO Q.49)

39b. What are you doing to find work now? Are you (READ EACH ITEM)?

[ROTATE -- START AT "X"]		Yes	No	Not Sure/ Refused
( )	a. Looking in the employment section of newspapers...	(48(____-1	____-2	____-3
( )	b. Answering advertisements which you see in public places.....	(49(____-1	____-2	____-3
( )	c. Using a state employment service or taking a civil service exam.....	(50(____-1	____-2	____-3
( )	d. Using an employment agency.....	(51(____-1	____-2	____-3
( )	e. Calling or seeing individual employers.....	(52(____-1	____-2	____-3
( )	f. Using an agency which places people who have disabilities in jobs.....	(53(____-1	____-2	____-3
( )	g. Asking friends or relatives.....	(54(____-1	____-2	____-3

40a. Would you prefer to have a full-time job now, or a part-time job, or doesn't it matter?

Prefer full-time.....(55(____-1 (GO TO Q.41)

Prefer part-time.....____-2 (ASK Q.40b)

Doesn't matter.....____-3
Not sure/refused.....____-4 } (GO TO Q.41)

40b. If you could only get a full-time job, would you take it, or not?

Would take full-time job.....(56(____-1
Would not take full-time job.....____-2
Not sure/refused.....____-3

41. Please say if each of these reasons is an important reason or not an important reason why you are not working now? (READ ITEM AND ASK: Is that an important reason for you, or not?)

	Important Reason	Not an Important Reason	Not Sure/ Refused
a. Because you think no full-time work is available in your line of work or you can't find it.....(57(	-1	-2	-3
b. Because your disability or health problem severely limits what you can do.....(58(	-1	-2	-3
c. Because you can't get affordable, convenient, or accessible transportation to and from work or housing near work.....(59(	-1	-2	-3
d. Because you don't have the skills, education, or training needed to get full-time jobs.....(60(	-1	-2	-3
e. Because you need medical treatment or therapy for your disability or health problem.....(61(	-1	-2	-3
f. Because you need special equipment or devices to do your work, talk to or hear other workers, or get around at work.....(62(	-1	-2	-3
g. Because you can't arrange childcare or have other family responsibilities.....(63(	-1	-2	-3
h. Because employers won't recognize that you are capable of doing a full-time job due to your disability or health problem.....(64(	-1	-2	-3
i. Because you would lose benefits or insurance payments.....(65(	-1	-2	-3
j. Because you need someone to help you get around at work, or talk to other workers.....(66(	-1	-2	-3

42. Have you ever held a full-time job continuously for a year or more, or not?

Yes, had a job...(67(-1 (ASK Q.43a)

No, had no job..... -2 } (GO TO Q.45)
Not sure..... -3 }

43a. When you worked full-time, did you have a disability or health problem, or not?

Yes, had disability/health problem...(68(____-1 (ASK 43b)

No, did not.....____-2 } (GO TO Q.45)
Not sure/refused.....____-3 }

43b. When you worked full-time was your disability slight, moderate, somewhat severe, or very severe?

Slight.....(69(____-1
Moderate.....____-2
Somewhat severe.....____-3
Very severe.....____-4
Not sure/refused.....____-5

43c. When you worked full-time, did your employer make accommodations for your disability or health problem, or not?

Employer made accommodations.(70(____-1
No accommodations made.....____-2
Not sure/refused.....____-3

44. When you worked full-time, did you feel that your job required you to use your full talents or abilities, some of your talents or abilities, only a small amount of your talents or abilities, or practically none of them at all?

Required full talents and abilities..(71(____-1
Some talents and abilities.....____-2
Only a small amount of them.....____-3
Practically none of them at all.....____-4
Not sure/refused.....____-5

45. If you didn't have a disability or health problem, do you think you would have the kind of job you would like to have, or not?

Would have job.....(72(____-1
Would not have job.....____-2
Don't know/not sure.....____-3
Refused.....____-4

46. Which has been more of an obstacle or barrier to your getting the kind of job you would like to do or think you are capable of doing -- your actual disability or health problem or how employers reacted to your disability or health problem?

Disability/health problem more of a barrier....(73(____-1
Employers' reaction more of a barrier.....____-2

Both equally significant barriers (vol.).....____-3
Lack of skills, education bigger barrier (vol.)....____-4
Bad economy bigger barrier (vol.).....____-5
Lack of transportation bigger barrier (vol.).....____-6
Race/gender bigger barrier (vol.).....____-7

Not sure/refused.....____-8

47. Do you feel that you have ever encountered job discrimination because of your disability or health problem, or not?

Have encountered job discrimination..(74(___-1
Have not encountered.....___-2
Not sure/refused.....___-3

48a. If you were working full-time, would you lose any income, health care benefits, or other benefits which you now receive from private insurance or the government?

Would lose.....(75(___-1 (ASK Q.48b)

Would not lose.....___-2 } (GO TO Q.48c)
Not sure/refused.....___-3 }

[76-80Z]

48b. What income, benefits, or insurance payments would you lose? [READ EACH ITEM]

	Yes	No	Not Sure/ Refused
1. SSI, Supplemental Security Income (the gold check)	(4*10(___-1	___-2	___-3
2. AFDC, Aid to Families with Dependent Children.....	(11(___-1	___-2	___-3
3. SSDI, Social Security disability (the green check)..	(12(___-1	___-2	___-3
4. Medicare.....	(13(___-1	___-2	___-3
5. Medicaid.....	(14(___-1	___-2	___-3
6. Veterans benefits.....	(15(___-1	___-2	___-3
7. Worker's compensation.....	(16(___-1	___-2	___-3
8. Disability insurance.....	(17(___-1	___-2	___-3
9. Unemployment insurance.....	(18(___-1	___-2	___-3
10. Lose other benefits (SPECIFY):			
_____	...(19(___-1	___-2	___-3

48c. If you were working full-time, do you think your total income and benefits would be much higher, somewhat higher, somewhat lower, much lower, or about the same as your total income and benefits are now?

Much higher.....(20(____-1
Somewhat higher.....____-2
Somewhat lower.....____-3
Much lower.....____-4
About the same.....____-5
Not sure/refused.....____-6

48d. Would you prefer to work at home, or would you rather work in an office, factory, or other workplace?

Would prefer to work at home.....(21(____-1
Would rather work in office, etc.....____-2
Not sure/refused.....____-3

GO TO Q.87

[UNEMPLOYED AND NOT LOOKING FOR WORK Q.49-Q.53b]

49. Would you like to have a regular job now, either full- or part-time?

Yes, want job.....(22(___-1
No, do not.....___-2
Not sure/refused.....___-3

50. Please say if each of these reasons is an important reason or not an important reason why you are not looking for work? (READ ITEM AND ASK: Is that an important reason for you, or not?)

	Important Reason	Not an Important Reason	Not Sure/ Refused
a. Because you think no full-time work is available in your line of work or you can't find it.....(23(	___-1	___-2	___-3
b. Because your disability or health problem severely limits what you can do.....(24(	___-1	___-2	___-3
c. Because you can't get affordable, convenient, or accessible transportation to and from work or housing near work.....(25(	___-1	___-2	___-3
d. Because you don't have the skills, education, or training needed to get full-time jobs.....(26(	___-1	___-2	___-3
e. Because you need medical treatment or therapy for your disability or health problem.....(27(	___-1	___-2	___-3
f. Because you need special equipment or devices to do your work, talk to or hear other workers, or get around at work.....(28(	___-1	___-2	___-3
g. Because you can't arrange childcare or have other family responsibilities.....(29(	___-1	___-2	___-3
h. Because employers won't recognize that you are capable of doing a full-time job due to your disability or health problem.....(30(	___-1	___-2	___-3
i. Because you would lose benefits or insurance payments.....(31(	___-1	___-2	___-3
j. Because you need someone to help you get around at work, or talk to other workers.....(32(	___-1	___-2	___-3

51. If the situation that is causing you not to look for work changed, would you begin looking for work, or not?

Would begin looking...(33(___-1
Would not.....___-2
Not sure/refused.....___-3

52a. If you were working full-time, would you lose any income, health care benefits, or other benefits which you now receive from private insurance or the government?

Would lose.....(34(____-1 (ASK Q.52b)

Would not lose.....____-2 } (GO TO Q.53a)
Not sure/refused.....____-3 }

52b. What income, benefits, or insurance payments would you lose? [READ EACH ITEM]

	Yes	No	Not Sure/ Refused
1. SSI, Supplemental Security Income (the gold check)..	(35(____-1	____-2	____-3
2. AFDC, Aid to Families with Dependent Children.....	(36(____-1	____-2	____-3
3. SSDI, Social Security disability (the green check)..	(37(____-1	____-2	____-3
4. Medicare.....	(38(____-1	____-2	____-3
5. Medicaid.....	(39(____-1	____-2	____-3
6. Veterans benefits.....	(40(____-1	____-2	____-3
7. Worker's compensation.....	(41(____-1	____-2	____-3
8. Disability insurance.....	(42(____-1	____-2	____-3
9. Unemployment insurance.....	(43(____-1	____-2	____-3
10. Lose other benefits (SPECIFY):			
_____ ...	(44(____-1	____-2	____-3

53a. If you were working full-time, do you think your total income and benefits would be much higher, somewhat higher, somewhat lower, much lower, or about the same as it is now?

Much higher.....(45(____-1
Somewhat higher.....____-2
Somewhat lower.....____-3
Much lower.....____-4
About the same.....____-5
Not sure/refused.....____-6

53b. If you were working, would you prefer to work at home, or would you rather work in an office, factory, or other workplace?

Would prefer to work at home.....(46(____-1
Would rather work in office, etc.....____-2
Not sure/refused.....____-3

[GO TO Q.87]

[IF HOUSEKEEPING Q.54-Q.61c]

54. For how long have you kept house? [READ LIST ONLY IF NEEDED]

Less than a year	(47(-1
1 to 2 years	-2
2 to 3 years	-3
3 to 4 years	-4
4 to 5 years	-5
5 to 10 years	-6
10 to 20 years	-7
20 years or more	-8
Not sure/refused	-9

55. How much does your disability or health problem limit your ability to do your work in the house -- does it severely limit what you can do, limit you somewhat, limit you only a little, or not limit you at all in your housework?

Severely limit	(48(-1
Limit somewhat	-2
Limit only a little	-3
Not limit you at all	-4
Not sure/refused	-5

56. Would you be able to do your work in the house better or more easily if you (READ EACH ITEM)?

	Yes	No	Not Sure/ Refused
a. Were able to get therapy or medical treatment	(49(-1	-2	-3
b. Had special equipment for your disability	(50(-1	-2	-3
c. Could change or adjust parts of your house to meet your needs	(51(-1	-2	-3

57a. Have you ever worked full-time continuously for a year or more, or not?

Yes, worked full-time	(52(-1 (ASK Q.57b)
No, did not	-2 } (GO TO Q.58b)
Not sure/refused	-3 }

57b. Did you have a disability or health problem when you worked full-time, or not?

Yes, had disability/health problem	(53(-1 (ASK 57c)
No, did not	-2 } (GO TO Q.58b)
Not sure/refused	-3 }

57c. When you worked full-time was your disability slight, moderate, somewhat severe, or very severe?

Slight.....(54(____-1
Moderate.....____-2
Somewhat severe.....____-3
Very severe.....____-4
Not sure/refused.....____-5

58a. When you worked full-time, did your employer make accommodations for your disability or health problem, or not?

Employer made accommodations..(55(____-1
No accommodations made.....____-2
Not sure/refused.....____-3

58b. Do you feel that you have ever encountered job discrimination because of your disability or health problem, or not?

Have encountered job discrimination..(56(____-1
Have not encountered.....____-2
Not sure/refused.....____-3

59. Would you like to have a job for pay now, either full-time or part-time, or not?

Yes, want job.....(57(____-1 (ASK Q.60)

No, do not.....____-2
Have part-time job (vol.).....____-3 } (GO TO Q.61)
Not sure/refused.....____-4

60. Please say if each of these reasons is an important reason or not an important reason why you are not employed now? (READ ITEM AND ASK: Is that an important reason for you, or not?)

	Important Reason	Not an Important Reason	Not Sure/ Refused
a. Because you think no full-time work is available in your line of work or you can't find it.....	(58(___-1	___-2	___-3
b. Because your disability or health problem severely limits what you can do.....	(59(___-1	___-2	___-3
c. Because you can't get affordable, convenient, or accessible transportation to and from work or housing near work.....	(60(___-1	___-2	___-3
d. Because you don't have the skills, education, or training needed to get full-time jobs.....	(61(___-1	___-2	___-3
e. Because you need medical treatment or therapy for your disability or health problem.....	(62(___-1	___-2	___-3
f. Because you need special equipment or devices to do your work, talk to or hear other workers, or get around at work.....	(63(___-1	___-2	___-3
g. Because you can't arrange childcare or have other family responsibilities.....	(64(___-1	___-2	___-3
h. Because employers won't recognize that you are capable of doing a full-time job due to your disability or health problem.....	(65(___-1	___-2	___-3
i. Because you don't need the money.....	(66(___-1	___-2	___-3
j. Because you would lose benefits or insurance payments.....	(67(___-1	___-2	___-3

61a. If you were working full-time, would you lose any income, health care benefits, or other benefits which you now receive from private insurance or the government?

Would lose.....(68(____-1 (ASK Q.61b)

Would not lose.....____-2 } (GO TO Q.61c)
Not sure/refused.....____-3 }

61b. What income, benefits, or insurance payments would you lose? [READ EACH ITEM]

	Yes	No	Not Sure/ Refused
1. SSI, Supplemental Security Income (the gold check)..	(69(____-1	____-2	____-3
2. AFDC, Aid to Families with Dependent Children.....	(70(____-1	____-2	____-3
3. SSDI, Social Security disability (the green check)..	(71(____-1	____-2	____-3
4. Medicare.....	(72(____-1	____-2	____-3
5. Medicaid.....	(73(____-1	____-2	____-3
6. Veterans benefits.....	(74(____-1	____-2	____-3
7. Worker's compensation.....	(75(____-1	____-2	____-3
8. Disability insurance.....	(76(____-1	____-2	____-3
9. Unemployment insurance.....	(77(____-1	____-2	____-3
10. Lose other benefits (SPECIFY):			
_____ ...	(78(____-1	____-2	____-3

61c. If you were working full-time, do you think your total income and benefits would be much higher, somewhat higher, somewhat lower, much lower, or about the same as your total income and benefits are now?

Much higher.....(79(____-1
Somewhat higher.....____-2
Somewhat lower.....____-3
Much lower.....____-4
About the same.....____-5
Not sure/refused.....____-6

61d. If you were working full- or part-time, would you prefer to work at home, or would you rather work in an office, factory, or other workplace?

Would prefer to work at home.....(80(____-1
Would rather work in office, etc.....____-2
Not sure/refused.....____-3

[GO TO Q.87]

[IF RETIRED Q.62-Q.68]

62a. Did you ever work full-time continuously for a year or more, or not?

Yes, worked full-time..5*(10(____-1 (ASK Q.62b)

No, did not.....____-2 } (GO TO Q.87)
Not sure/refused.....____-3 }

62b. Did you work full-time for at least half of your adult life, or not?

Worked full-time for at least half of adult life.(11(____-1 (ASK Q.63a)

Did not work for half of adult life.....____-2 } (GO TO Q.66c)
Not sure/refused.....____-3 }

63a. Did you have a disability or health problem most of the time when you worked full-time, or not?

Had disability/health problem most of the time.....(12(____-1 (ASK Q.63b)

Did not have disability/health problem most of the time...____-2 } (GO TO Q.66c)
Not sure/refused.....____-3 }

63b. When you worked full-time was your disability slight, moderate, somewhat severe, or very severe?

Slight.....(13(____-1
Moderate.....____-2
Somewhat severe.....____-3
Very severe.....____-4
Not sure/refused.....____-5

64. When you worked full-time, did your employer make accommodations for your health problem or disability, or not?

Employer made accommodations..(14(____-1
No accommodations made.....____-2
Not sure/refused.....____-3

65. If you didn't have a disability or health problem when you worked, do you think you would have had a much better job, a somewhat better job, a somewhat worse job, a much worse job, or about the same job that you had then?

Much better job.....(15(____-1 } (ASK Q.66a)
Somewhat better job.....____-2 }

Somewhat worse job.....____-3 }
Much worse job.....____-4 } (GO TO Q.66b)
Don't know/not sure.....____-5 }
Refused.....____-6 }

66a. Which was more of an obstacle or barrier to your getting the kind of job you would have liked to do or think you were capable of doing -- your actual disability or health problem or how employers reacted to your disability or health problem?

Disability/health problem more of a barrier....(16(____-1
Employers' reaction more of a barrier.....____-2

Both equally significant barriers (vol.).....____-3
Lack of skills, education bigger barrier (vol.)....____-4
Bad economy bigger barrier (vol.).....____-5
Lack of transportation bigger barrier (vol.).....____-6
Race/gender bigger barrier (vol.).....____-7

Not sure/refused.....____-8

66b. Do you feel that you have ever encountered job discrimination because of your disability or health problem, or not?

Have encountered job discrimination..(17(____-1
Have not encountered.....____-2
Not sure/refused.....____-3

66c. At what age did you retire? [RECORD EXACT AGE]

| | | | years old
(18-19)

Not sure....(20(____-1
Refused.....____-2

66d. Did you retire by choice, or were you forced to retire by your employer?

Retired by choice.....(21(____-1 (GO TO Q.87)

Forced to retire.....____-2 (ASK Q.67a)

Not sure/refused.....____-3 (GO TO Q.87)

67a. Why did your employer force you to retire? [DO NOT READ LIST -- MULTIPLE RECORD]

Disability/health problem.....(22(____-1
Company had fixed retirement age.....____-2
Other (SPECIFY):

_____....____-3
Not sure/refused.....____-4

67b. Would you like to have a regular job again, either full or part-time, or not?

Yes, would like.....(23(____-1 (ASK Q.68)

No, would not.....____-2 } (GO TO Q.87)
Not sure/refused.....____-3 }

68. Would you prefer to work at home, or would you rather work in an office, factory, or other workplace?

Would prefer to work at home.....(24(____-1
Would rather work in office, etc.....____-2
Not sure/refused.....____-3

[GO TO Q.87]

[IF FULL-TIME STUDENT, TRAINEE, OR IN VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION Q.69-Q.74]

69. Are you currently in high school, a technical or vocational school or training program, a vocational rehabilitation program, a two-year college, a four-year college, or in graduate or professional school?

High school	(25(	-1
Technical/vocational school or program		-2
Vocational rehabilitation		-3
Two-year college		-4
Four-year college		-5
Graduate/professional		-6
Not sure/refused		-7

70. Do you think there are enough special programs and facilities in your school or program to accommodate the needs of students like you, or not?

Yes, are enough	(26(	-1
No, are not enough		-2
Not sure/refused		-3

71. Some students who have disabilities or health problems need special courses or career counseling to help them prepare to find jobs and make the change from school to work. Do you think your school or program is giving you all of the preparation you need, only some of the preparation, not enough preparation, or practically no preparation at all?

Giving all of the preparation needed	(27(	-1
Only some of the preparation		-2
Not enough preparation		-3
Practically no preparation at all		-4
Not sure/refused		-5

72. What kind of an effect, if any, do you think your disability or health problem has had or will have on your job opportunities -- a strongly positive effect, a somewhat positive effect, a somewhat negative effect, a strongly negative effect, or no effect at all?

Strongly positive effect	(28(	-1
Somewhat positive effect		-2
Somewhat negative effect		-3
Strongly negative effect		-4
No effect at all		-5
Not sure/refused		-6

73. Do you expect to encounter job discrimination because of your disability or health problem when you look for jobs, or not?

Expect to encounter job discrimination	(29(	-1
Do not expect		-2
Not sure/refused		-3

74. How familiar are you with local or state job counseling and employment services for people with disabilities or health problems -- very familiar, somewhat familiar, not too familiar, or not familiar at all?

Very familiar	(30(	-1
Somewhat familiar		-2
Not too familiar		-3
Not familiar at all		-4
Not sure/refused		-5

[GO TO Q.87]

[COMPLETELY UNABLE TO WORK BECAUSE OF DISABILITY Q.75-Q.80d]

75. Would you like to have a regular job now, either full-or part-time?

Yes, want job.....(31(___-1 (ASK Q.76)

No, do not.....___-2 } (GO TO Q.77a)
Not sure/refused.....___-3 }

76. Please say if each of these reasons is an important reason or not an important reason why you are not working now? (READ ITEM AND ASK: Is that an important reason for you, or not?)

	Important Reason	Not an Important Reason	Not Sure/ Refused
a. Because you think no full-time work is available in your line of work or you can't find it.....(32(	___-1	___-2	___-3
b. Because your disability or health problem severely limits what you can do.....(33(	___-1	___-2	___-3
c. Because you can't get affordable, convenient, or accessible transportation to and from work or housing near work.....(34(	___-1	___-2	___-3
d. Because you don't have the skills, education, or training needed to get full-time jobs.....(35(	___-1	___-2	___-3
e. Because you need medical treatment or therapy for your disability or health problem.....(36(	___-1	___-2	___-3
f. Because you need special equipment or devices to do your work, talk to or hear other workers, or get around at work.....(37(	___-1	___-2	___-3
g. Because you can't arrange childcare or have other family responsibilities.....(38(	___-1	___-2	___-3
h. Because employers won't recognize that you are capable of doing a full-time job due to your disability or health problem.....(39(	___-1	___-2	___-3
i. Because you would lose benefits or insurance payments.....(40(	___-1	___-2	___-3

77a. Have you ever held a full-time job continuously for a year or more, or not?

Yes, had a job...(41(____-1 (ASK Q.77b)

No, had no job.....____-2 } (GO TO Q.78b)
Not sure.....____-3 }

77b. When you worked full-time, did you have a disability or health problem, or not?

Yes, had disability/health problem...(42(____-1 (ASK 77c)

No, did not.....____-2 } (GO TO Q.78b)
Not sure/refused.....____-3 }

77c. When you worked full-time was your disability slight, moderate, somewhat severe, or very severe?

Slight.....(43(____-1
Moderate.....____-2
Somewhat severe.....____-3
Very severe.....____-4
Not sure/refused.....____-5

77d. When you worked full-time, did your employer make accommodations for your disability or health problem, or not?

Employer made accommodations..(44(____-1
No accommodations made.....____-2
Not sure/refused.....____-3

78a. When you worked full-time, did you feel that your job required you to use your full talents or abilities, some of your talents or abilities, only a small amount of your talents or abilities, or practically none of them at all?

Required full talents and abilities...(45(____-1
Some talents and abilities.....____-2
Only a small amount of them.....____-3
Practically none of them at all.....____-4
Not sure/refused.....____-5

78b. If you didn't have a disability or health problem, do you think you would have the kind of job you would like to have, or not?

Would have job.....(46(____-1
Would not have job.....____-2
Don't know/not sure.....____-3
Refused.....____-4

79a. Which has been more of an obstacle or barrier to your getting the kind of job you would like to do or think you are capable of doing -- your actual disability or health problem or how employers reacted to your disability or health problem?

Disability/health problem more of a barrier....(47(___-1
Employers' reaction more of a barrier.....___-2

Both equally significant barriers (vol.).....___-3
Lack of skills, education bigger barrier (vol.)....___-4
Bad economy bigger barrier (vol.).....___-5
Lack of transportation bigger barrier (vol.).....___-6
Race/gender bigger barrier (vol.).....___-7

Not sure/refused.....___-8

79b. Do you feel that you have ever encountered job discrimination because of your disability or health problem, or not?

Have encountered job discrimination..(48(___-1
Have not encountered.....___-2
Not sure/refused.....___-3

80a. If you were working full-time, would you lose any income, health care benefits, or other benefits which you now receive from private insurance or the government?

Would lose.....(49(___-1 (ASK Q.80b)

Would not lose.....___-2 } (GO TO Q.80c)
Not sure/refused.....___-3 }

80b. What income, benefits, or insurance payments would you lose? [READ EACH ITEM]

	Yes	No	Not Sure/ Refused
1. SSI, Supplemental Security Income (the gold check)..	(50(___-1	___-2	___-3
2. AFDC, Aid to Families with Dependent Children.....	(51(___-1	___-2	___-3
3. SSDI, Social Security disability (the green check)..	(52(___-1	___-2	___-3
4. Medicare.....	(53(___-1	___-2	___-3
5. Medicaid.....	(54(___-1	___-2	___-3
6. Veterans benefits.....	(55(___-1	___-2	___-3
7. Worker's compensation.....	(56(___-1	___-2	___-3
8. Disability insurance.....	(57(___-1	___-2	___-3
9. Unemployment insurance.....	(58(___-1	___-2	___-3
10. Lose other benefits (SPECIFY):			
_____...	(59(___-1	___-2	___-3

80c. If you were working, do you think your total income and benefits would be much higher, somewhat higher, somewhat lower, much lower, or about the same as your total income and benefits are now?

Much higher.....(60(____-1
Somewhat higher.....____-2
Somewhat lower.....____-3
Much lower.....____-4
About the same.....____-5
Not sure/refused.....____-6

80d. If you were working, would you prefer to work at home, or would you rather work in an office, factory, or other workplace?

Would prefer to work at home.....(61(____-1
Would rather work in office, etc.....____-2
Not sure/refused.....____-3

[GO TO Q.87]

[FULL OR PART-TIME VOLUNTEER SERVICE Q.81a-Q.86d]

81a. Do you do volunteer service full-time, part-time, or does it vary?

Full-time.....(62(___ -1
Part-time..... ___ -2
Varies..... ___ -3
Not sure/refused..... ___ -4

81b. How do you usually spend most of the time when you're not doing volunteer service -- do you work part-time, keep house, take care of a child or other relative, or something else?

Work part-time.....(63(___ -1
Keep house..... ___ -2
Care for child/relative..... ___ -3
Other (SPECIFY):

_____.. ___ -4
Not sure/refused..... ___ -5

82a. How satisfied are you with doing volunteer service -- very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, not too satisfied, or not at all satisfied?

Very satisfied.....(64(___ -1
Somewhat..... ___ -2
Not too..... ___ -3
Not at all..... ___ -4
Not sure/refused..... ___ -5

82b. Would you prefer to have a job for pay, either full or part-time, as your main activity instead of volunteer service, or not?

Would prefer job for pay..(65(___ -1 (ASK Q.83)

Would not prefer..... ___ -2 } (SKIP TO Q.84a)
Not sure/refused..... ___ -3 }

83. Please say if each of these reasons is an important reason or not an important reason why you are not working for pay as your main activity? (READ ITEM AND ASK: Is that an important reason for you, or not?)

	Important Reason	Not an Important Reason	Not Sure/ Refused
a. Because you think no full-time work is available in your line of work or you can't find it.....(66(	___-1	___-2	___-3
b. Because your disability or health problem severely limits what you can do.....(67(	___-1	___-2	___-3
c. Because you can't get affordable, convenient, or accessible transportation to and from work or housing near work.....(68(	___-1	___-2	___-3
d. Because you don't have the skills, education, or training needed to get full-time jobs.....(69(	___-1	___-2	___-3
e. Because you need medical treatment or therapy for your disability or health problem.....(70(	___-1	___-2	___-3
f. Because you need special equipment or devices to do your work, talk to or hear other workers, or get around at work.....(71(	___-1	___-2	___-3
g. Because you can't arrange childcare or have other family responsibilities.....(72(	___-1	___-2	___-3
h. Because employers won't recognize that you are capable of doing a full-time job due to your disability or health problem.....(73(	___-1	___-2	___-3
i. Because you would lose benefits or insurance payments.....(74(	___-1	___-2	___-3
j. Because you need someone to help you get around at work, to do certain tasks, or talk to other workers.....(75(	___-1	___-2	___-3

84a. If you didn't have a disability or health problem, do you think you would be working full-time now for pay, or not?

Would be working full-time.....(76(___-1
Would not be working full-time..... ___-2
Not sure/refused..... ___-3

84b. Do you feel that you have ever encountered job discrimination because of your disability or health problem, or not?

Have encountered job discrimination..(77(___-1
Have not encountered..... ___-2
Not sure/refused..... ___-3

84c. Have you ever held a full-time job continuously for a year or more, or not?

Yes, had a job.....(78(____-1 (ASK Q.85a)

No, had no job.....____-2 } (GO TO Q.86a)
Not sure/refused.....____-3 }

85a. Did you feel that your job required you to use your full talents or abilities, some of your talents or abilities, only a small amount of your talents and abilities, or practically none of them at all?

Required full talents and abilities...(79(____-1 } (GO TO Q.85c)
Some talents and abilities.....____-2 }

Only a small amount of them.....____-3 } (ASK Q.85b)
Practically none of them at all.....____-4 }

Not sure/refused.....____-5 (GO TO Q.85c)

85b. Which has been more of an obstacle or barrier to your getting the kind of job you would like to do or think you are capable of doing -- your actual disability or health problem or how employers reacted to your disability or health problem?

Disability/health problem more of a barrier....(80(____-1
Employers' reaction more of a barrier.....____-2

Both equally significant barriers (vol.).....____-3
Lack of skills, education bigger barrier (vol.)....____-4
Bad economy bigger barrier (vol.).....____-5
Lack of transportation bigger barrier (vol.).....____-6
Race/gender bigger barrier (vol.).....____-7

Not sure/refused.....____-8

85c. When you worked full-time, did your employer make accommodations for your disability or health problem, or not?

Employer made accommodations..6*(10(____-1
No accommodations made.....____-2
Not sure/refused.....____-3

85d. What type of work did you do when you worked full-time?

DESCRIBE JOB BRIEFLY:

Professional.....(11(____-1
Manager, official.....____-2
Proprietor (small business) or self-employed...____-3
Clerical worker.....____-4
Sales worker.....____-5
Skilled craftsman, foreman.....____-6
Operative, unskilled laborer (except farm).....____-7
Service worker.....____-8
Farmer, farm manager, farm laborer.....____-9
Military service.....____-0
Sheltered workshop.....(12(____-1
Other (SPECIFY):

_____.....____-2
Refused.....____-3
Not sure.....____-4
No answer/interviewer error.....____-5

86a. If you were working full-time, would you lose any income, health care benefits, or other benefits which you now receive from private insurance or the government?

Would lose.....(13(____-1 (ASK Q.86b)

Would not lose.....____-2 } (GO TO Q.86c)
Not sure/refused.....____-3 }

86b. What income, benefits, or insurance payments would you lose? [READ EACH ITEM]

	Yes	No	Not Sure/ Refused
1. SSI, Supplemental Security Income (the gold check)	(14(___ -1	___ -2	___ -3
2. AFDC, Aid to Families with Dependent Children	(15(___ -1	___ -2	___ -3
3. SSDI, Social Security disability (the green check)	(16(___ -1	___ -2	___ -3
4. Medicare	(17(___ -1	___ -2	___ -3
5. Medicaid	(18(___ -1	___ -2	___ -3
6. Veterans benefits	(19(___ -1	___ -2	___ -3
7. Worker's compensation	(20(___ -1	___ -2	___ -3
8. Disability insurance	(21(___ -1	___ -2	___ -3
9. Unemployment insurance	(22(___ -1	___ -2	___ -3
10. Lose other benefits (SPECIFY): _____	(23(___ -1	___ -2	___ -3

86c. If you were working, do you think your total income and benefits would be much higher, somewhat higher, somewhat lower, much lower, or about the same as your total income and benefits are now?

Much higher.....(24(___ -1
Somewhat higher..... ___ -2
Somewhat lower..... ___ -3
Much lower..... ___ -4
About the same..... ___ -5
Not sure/refused..... ___ -6

86d. If you were working full-time, would you prefer to work at home, or would you rather work in an office, factory, or other workplace?

Would prefer to work at home.....(25(___ -1
Would rather work in office, etc..... ___ -2
Not sure/refused..... ___ -3

[ASK EVERYONE]

87. Do you feel that your disability or health problem has <u>in any way</u> prevented you from reaching what you feel are your full abilities as a person, or not?

Has prevented from reaching abilities.(26(____-1
Has <u>not</u> prevented.....____-2
Not sure.....____-3

88a. Has your disability or health problem been a major limitation, a minor limitation, or no limitation at all on your sexual activity?

Major limitation.....(27(____-1
Minor limitation.....____-2
No limitation at all.....____-3
Not sure/refused.....____-4

88b. And if you are not married, has your disability or health problem been a major obstacle, a minor obstacle, or no obstacle to your opportunities to marry?

Major obstacle.....(28(____-1
Minor obstacle.....____-2
No obstacle.....____-3
Married (vol.).....____-4
Not applicable (vol.)....____-5
Not sure/refused.....____-6

88c. What about having children? Has your disability or health problem had a positive impact, a negative impact, or no impact at all on your ability to have children or your interest in having children?

Positive impact.....(29(____-1
Negative impact.....____-2
No impact at all.....____-3
Not applicable/past child-bearing age (vol.)____-4
Not sure/refused.....____-5

89. What is the most difficult barrier that you have faced in connection with your disability or health problem over the years? (PROBE:) What other barriers have you faced?

INTERVIEWER: RECORD UP TO 3. PROBE FOR CLEAR ANSWERS. IF PERSON SAYS THEY HAVE NOT FACED BARRIERS, SKIP TO Q.93a.

_____ (30-31)

_____ (32-33)

_____ (34-35)

_____

_____

90. Do you think you still face this (these) barrier(s), or not?

Yes, still face barrier...(36(____-1 (ASK Q.91)

No, do not face barrier.....____-2 } (GO TO Q.92)
Not sure/refuse.....____-3 }

91. What is the most important thing that could be done to help you face this (these) barrier(s) successfully? [RECORD] (PROBE:) Is there anything else that could be done?

_____ (37-38) }
_____ (39-40) } (GO TO Q.93a)
_____ (41-42) }

92. Why do you no longer face this (these) barrier(s)? [RECORD]

_____ (43-44)

_____ (45-46)

_____ (47-48)

_____

93a. I'm going to read you some services available to disabled people. Please say if you are familiar or not familiar with each service.
[INTERVIEWER: IF "FAMILIAR" WITH A SERVICE, ASK Q.93b. THEN GO TO NEXT ITEM.]

93b. Have you used (READ ITEM), or not?

[INTERVIEWER: IF RESPONDENT HAS USED MORE THAN ONE SERVICE IN Q.93b, ASK Q.93c. SKIP OTHERS TO Q.94.]

93c. Which one of these services that you have used has helped you the most?
[MARK PROPER CODE]

	Q.93a			Q.93b			Q.93c
	Familiar	Not Familiar	Not Sure	Used	Not Used	Not Sure	Service That Has Helped Most
1. Vocational rehabilitation.....	(49(___-1	___-2	___-3	(54(___-1	___-2	___-3	(59(___-1
2. Independent living centers.....	(50(___-1	___-2	___-3	(55(___-1	___-2	___-3	___-2
3. Section 8 and other housing for disabled people.....	(51(___-1	___-2	___-3	(56(___-1	___-2	___-3	___-3
4. Transportation services for disabled people.....	(52(___-1	___-2	___-3	(57(___-1	___-2	___-3	___-4
5. Medical and rehabilitation services for disabled people....	(53(___-1	___-2	___-3	(58(___-1	___-2	___-3	___-5
Not sure.....	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	___-6

94. How hard do you think it is for people who need these services to find out about them -- is it almost impossible, very hard, somewhat hard, not too hard, or not hard at all?

Almost impossible.....(60(___-1
Very hard..... ___-2
Somewhat hard..... ___-3
Not too hard..... ___-4
Not hard at all..... ___-5
Not sure/refused..... ___-6

204

203

95. One way to help people learn about services would be to have a free 800 telephone number for people to call, where they could find out about all services available to disabled people in their state. How likely would you be to call a free 800 number for help finding out about services available to you in your state -- very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, or not likely at all?

Very likely.....(61(____-1
Somewhat likely.....____-2
Not too likely.....____-3
Not likely at all.....____-4
Not sure/refused.....____-5

96. Now I'd like to mention different kinds of programs and benefits that people have. As I read each of the following items, please tell me whether you currently receive the benefit or payment, or not. |READ EACH ITEM|

|DO NOT ROTATE LIST|	Yes, Receive	Do Not Receive	Not Sure/ Refused
a.	Unemployment insurance	(62(____-1	____-2	____-3
b.	Worker's compensation	(63(____-1	____-2	____-3
c.	Short-term disability insurance	(64(____-1	____-2	____-3
d.	Private long-term disability insurance	(65(____-1	____-2	____-3
e.	Supplemental Security Income or SSI, or Social Security disability benefits (SSDB or SSDI)	(66(____-1	____-2	____-3
f.	Aid to families with dependent children or AFDC	(67(____-1	____-2	____-3
g.	Veterans benefits	(68(____-1	____-2	____-3
h.	Section 8 housing or Section 202 housing or other public housing	(69(____-1	____-2	____-3
i.	A reduced fare card for buses or trains	(70(____-1	____-2	____-3

97. Now I'd like read off a few different kinds of health plans or health insurance that people have, including those provided by the government. As I read each of the following health plans, please tell me whether you are currently covered by it or not. |READ EACH ITEM|

		Yes, Covered	No, Not Covered	Not Sure/ Refused
a.	Health insurance through work, a union, or some other group	(71(____-1	____-2	____-3
b.	Private health insurance bought by yourself or someone else in the family	(72(____-1	____-2	____-3
c.	Medicare Part A or Part B, that pays hospital or doctor's bills for people aged 65 and over and for some disabled people	(73(____-1	____-2	____-3
d.	Medicaid or Public Aid	(74(____-1	____-2	____-3

98. Have you ever been refused (READ ITEM) by an insurance company or had one cancelled because of your disability or health problem, or not?

	Been Refused/ Cancelled	No Refusal/ Cancellation	No Answer/ Not Sure	Not Applicable (Vol.)
a. An auto insurance policy.....	(75(___-1	___-2	___-3	___-4
b. A health insurance policy.....	(76(___-1	___-2	___-3	___-4
c. An accident insurance policy....	(77(___-1	___-2	___-3	___-4
d. A life insurance policy.....	(78(___-1	___-2	___-3	___-4
e. A disability insurance policy...	(79(___-1	___-2	___-3	___-4

99. Have you ever been refused Social Security disability (SSDB or SSDI) benefits or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or not?

Has been refused.....(80(___-1
Has not been refused..... ___-2
Not sure/refused..... ___-3

F1. Are you married, single, separated, divorced, living together with someone, or widowed?

Married.....7*(10(____-1
Single.....____-2
Separated.....____-3
Divorced.....____-4
Living together.....____-5
Widowed.....____-6
Not sure.....____-7
Refused.....____-8

F2a. What was the last grade or level of school you completed?

No formal schooling.....(11(____-1
First through 7th grade.....____-2
8th grade.....____-3
Some high school.....____-4
High school graduate.....____-5
Some college.....____-6
Two-year college graduate.....____-7
Four-year college graduate.....____-8
Postgraduate.....____-9
Trade/technical/vocational
after high school*.....XXXXXX

*INTERVIEWER: PROBE FOR LAST LEVEL OF FORMAL EDUCATION AND CODE INTO APPROPRIATE CATEGORY

F2b. Are you the main wageearner or provider of income in this household, or is that someone else?

Respondent is.....(12(____-1 (GO TO Q.F3)

Someone else is.....____-2
No significant difference between wage earner's income (vol.).....____-3
Not sure.....____-4
} (ASK Q.F2c)

F2c. What type of work does the main wage earner of this household do? (IF RETIRED OR UNEMPLOYED:) What was his/her usual job?

ASK FOR JOB TITLE AND MAIN DUTIES -- DESCRIBE IN DETAIL:

Professional.....(13(-1
Manager, official..... -2
Proprietor (small business)..... -3
Clerical worker..... -4
Sales worker..... -5
Skilled craftsman, foreman..... -6
Operative, unskilled laborer (except farm)..... -7
Service worker..... -8
Farmer, farm manager, farm laborer..... -9
Student..... -0
Housewife.....(14(-1
Military service..... -2
Welfare..... -3
Completely unable to work because of disability or health probelm..... -4
Sheltered workshop..... -5
Other (SPECIFY)

_____ -6
Not sure..... -7

F3. Which of the following income categories best describes the total 1984 income of all wage earners in your household, including income from benefits and insurance payments? Was it (READ LIST)?

$7,500 or less.....(15(-1
$7,501 to $15,000..... -2
$15,001 to $25,000..... -3
$25,001 to $35,000..... -4
$35,001 to $50,000..... -5
$50,001 or over..... -6
Not sure..... -7

INTERVIEWER: TOTAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME BEFORE TAXES FROM ALL SOURCES

F4a. Of that total, which of the following income categories best describes your total 1984 personal income, including income from benefits and insurance payments? Was it (READ LIST)?

$7,500 or less.....(16(-1
$7,501 to $15,000..... -2
$15,001 to $25,000..... -3
$25,001 to $35,000..... -4
$35,001 to $50,000..... -5
$50,001 or over..... -6
Not sure..... -7

F4b. About how much of your total 1984 personal income came from benefits and insurance payments -- none of your income, about one-quarter, one-half, three-quarters, or all of it?

None.....(17(-1
One-quarter..... -2
One-half..... -3
Three-quarters..... -4
All income from benefits.. -5
Not sure..... -6

F5. Are you of Hispanic descent, or not?

Yes, of Hispanic descent.....(18(____-1
No, not of Hispanic descent.....____-2
Not sure.....____-3

F6. Do you consider yourself white, black, oriental, or some other race?

White.....(19(____-1
Black.....____-2
Oriental/Asian or Pacific Islander.....____-3
American Indian or Alaskan native.....____-4
Not sure.....____-5

F7a. Including yourself, how many people age 16 and over are there living in this household?

1.....(20(____-1
2.....____-2
3.....____-3
4.....____-4
5.....____-5
6.....____-6
7.....____-7
8.....____-8
9 or more.....____-9
Not sure.....____-0
Refused.....(21(____-1

F7b. Are there other people with disibilities or disabling health problems in the household, or not?

Other disabled people.....(22(____-1 (ASK Q.F7c)

No other disabled people.....____-2 } (GO TO Q.F8)
Not sure/refused.....____-3 }

F7c. How many other disabled people are there in the household in addition to yourself?

| | | (RECORD)
(23-24)

Not sure.....(25(____-1
Refused.....____-2

F8. FROM OBSERVATION (DO NOT ASK): SEX

Male.....(26(____-1
Female.....____-2

[27-802]

Thank you very much for your cooperation! This ends the interview.

Time Ended: _____A.M./P.M.